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ABSTRACT

This Kids Count report details statewide trends in the well-being of Maryland's children. The statistical portrait is based on 14 indicators of child well being: (1) child poverty; (2) child support; (3) births to teens; (4) low birthweight infants; (5) infant mortality; (6) lead screening; (7) child abuse and neglect; (8) child death rate; (9) teen violent death; (10) school violence; (11) juvenile violent crime arrests; (12) third grade reading achievement; (13) on-time graduation; and (14) high school completion. Charts compare Maryland counties in the domains of health, economic, safety, and preparing for adulthood. The bulk of the report presents a statewide overview and county data for well-being indicators. Findings indicate that there have been improvements in 10 indicators. Infant mortality has continued to decline. The teen violent death rate has not increased and the child death rate has declined. There have been gains on all three education indicators. However, over 15 percent of children live in poverty, a 33 percent increase in 6 years. There have been increases in low birthweight infants and the juvenile violent crime arrest rate. There are continued disparities between African Americans and whites on low birth weight, infant mortality, teen births, and teen violent death rate. An appendix lists county data on the indicators in aggregate form and describes the methodology and data sources. (KB)

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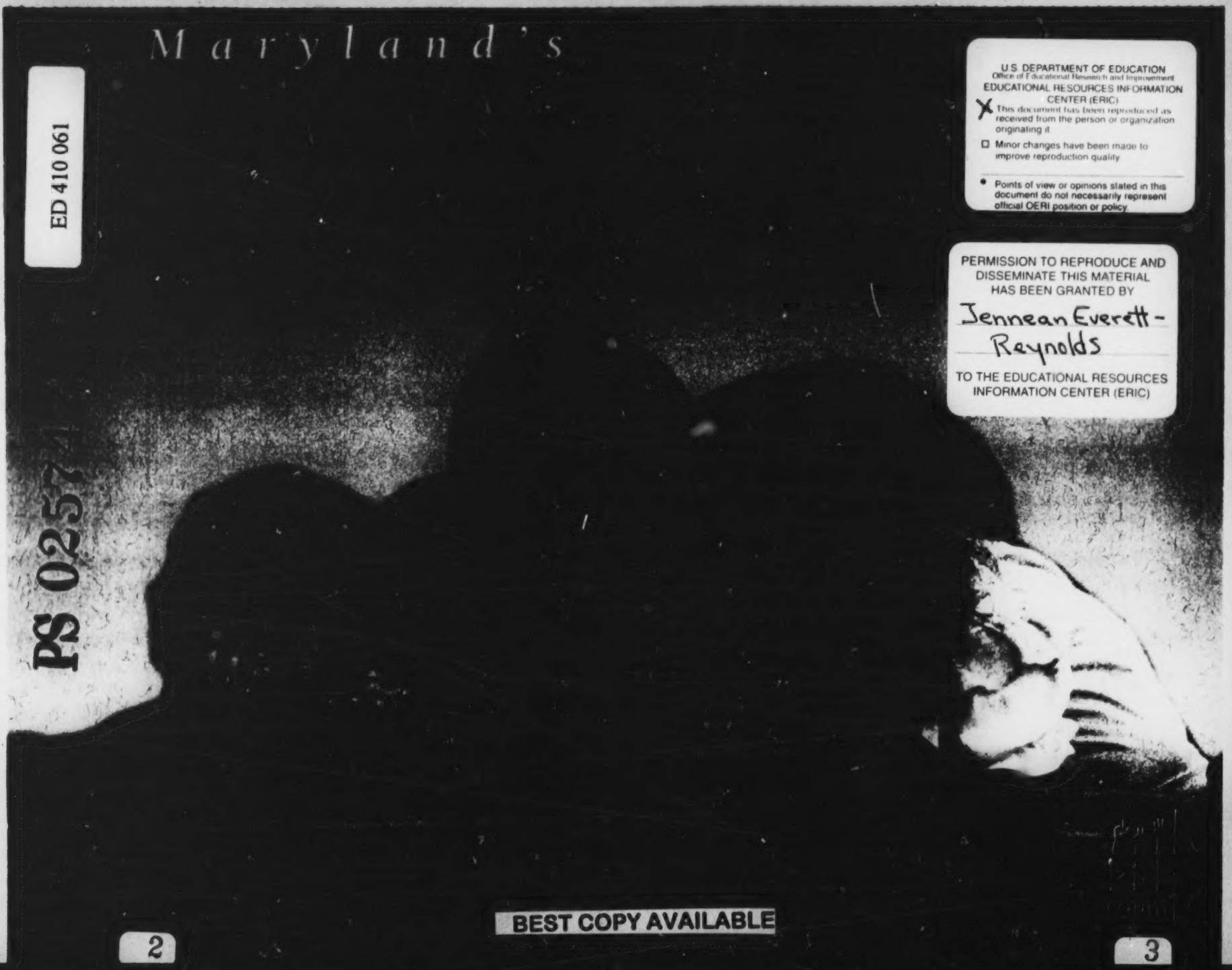

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Our Vision

Maryland's children will have opportunities to achieve their full potential. They will reach adulthood having experienced a safe, healthy and nurturing childhood. Children in Maryland will have opportunities to grow physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially. They will be prepared to become responsible, self-sufficient and contributing members of the community.

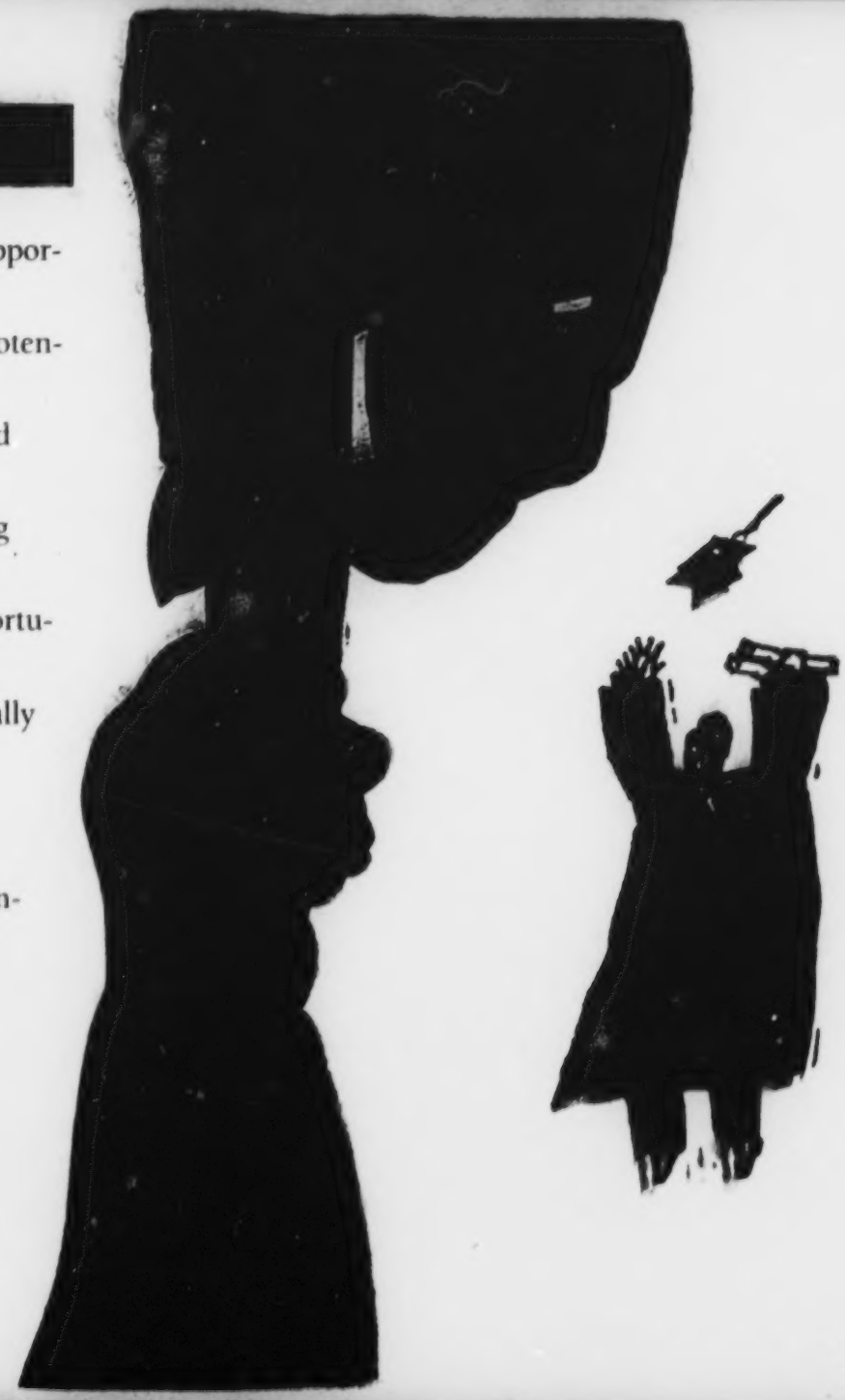

Table of Contents

I. Our Vision 1

II. What is KIDS COUNT? 3
Acknowledgements 4

III. Status of our Children 5
Why This Book? 5
Key Findings About Maryland Children 6

IV. Rankings
How Maryland Counties Rank 7
How Maryland Counties Rank by Domain 8
How Do We Rank? 9

V. Guide to the Factbook 10

VI. Overview 11
ECONOMIC WELL-BEING 12
Child Poverty 12
Child Support 13
Births to Teens 14
GOOD HEALTH 16
Low Birth Weight Infants 16
Infant Mortality 17
Lead Screening 17
SAFETY 18
Child Abuse and Neglect 18
Child Death Rate 19
Teen Violent Death 21
School Violence 21
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests 23
PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD 24
Third Grade Reading 24
On-Time Graduation 25
High School Completion 26

VII. County Fact Sheets 27
Maryland State 28
Allegany 30
Anne Arundel 32
Baltimore City 34
Baltimore County 36
Calvert 38
Caroline 40
Carroll 42
Cecil 44
Charles 46
Dorchester 48
Frederick 50
Garrett 52
Harford 54
Howard 56
Kent 58
Montgomery 60
Prince George's 62
Queen Anne's 64
Saint Mary's 66
Somerset 68
Talbot 70
Washington 72
Wicomico 74
Worcester 76

VIII. Appendix 78

IX. Methodology and Sources 87

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Maryland 1996 KIDS COUNT Factbook

What is KIDS COUNT?

Maryland KIDS COUNT is a seven-year project, begun in January, 1993, funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Maryland KIDS COUNT profiles the status of children in Maryland by tracking outcomes of economic well-being, health, safety and education. The five main goals of this project are to:

- develop a clear picture of the condition of children at state and local levels that can be used to guide efforts to improve the quality of life for children;
- track data indicators over time to assess change;
- educate the public and policy makers on the status of children and families in Maryland;
- use KIDS COUNT data as a planning tool to identify priority issues which will assist decision-makers in effectively utilizing scarce public and private resources; and
- maximize collaborative efforts on behalf of children.

Maryland KIDS COUNT Partnership is a collaborative effort of the following: Advocates for Children and Youth, Inc.; Action for the Homeless; Baltimore Urban League, Inc.; Governor's Office for Children; Youth and Families; The Shelter Foundation; The Ready at Five Partnership; Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth; Maryland Alliance Against Family Violence; Maryland Business Roundtable for Education; Maryland Committee for Children, Inc.; Maryland State Department of Education; Welfare Advocates; Maryland Education Coalition; Maryland Food Committee and Mental Health Association of Maryland.

For further information about KIDS COUNT publications contact:

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Additional copies of the Maryland 1996 KIDS COUNT Factbook are available for a fee of $15 (postage included).

Please make checks payable to "ACY- KIDS COUNT."

We encourage that any or all portions of this book be copied without prior permission, provided the Maryland 1996 KIDS COUNT Factbook is acknowledged.

Acknowledgements

The Maryland KIDS COUNT project is funded by a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Without their dedication and commitment to the well-being of children, this project would not have been possible. Thanks to the national KIDS COUNT project staff- Bill O'Hare and Jennifer Baratz - for their technical assistance and encouragement.

It is with our appreciation that we would like to thank the following individuals for their contribution to the Maryland KIDS COUNT project.

Thanks to the Data Committee for their outstanding effort in helping us collect the various data elements used in this book. They are: Margaret Fowler (Child Support Enforcement Administration, Department of Human Resources), Richard Arnold (Income Maintenance Administration, Department of Human Resources), Ricka Markowitz (Maryland State Department of Education), Arna Griffith (Maryland Committee for Children, Inc.), Deborah Morgan (Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene), John Folkemer (Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene), Dr. Lakshmi Iyengar (Department of Juvenile Services), Estelle Appleburg (Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene), Denise Shearer (Uniform Crime Reporting Program, Maryland State Police), Steve Barry (Maryland Department of Human Resources) and Barbara Conrad (Maryland Department of the Environment). We would like to extend a special thanks to Dr. Isabelle Horon of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Her cooperation in providing current and historic data is greatly appreciated.

For their hard work and dedication we acknowledge the KIDS COUNT staff: Jennean Everett-Reynolds, Project Director and Jean Kim, Research Assistant.

We would like to thank Saro Dedeyan of Bulls-Eye Graphics for his innovative and creative design of this factbook.

Status of Our Children

Why This Book?

The Maryland 1996 Factbook presents the fourth comprehensive look at the conditions of children and families in Maryland. The factbook measures how well or how poorly children are doing by presenting the best available data to monitor the social, economic, educational and physical well-being of Maryland's children. The data on the fourteen indicators in this factbook are categorized under four domains: Economic Well-Being, Good Health, Safety and Preparing for Adulthood. This factbook provides a detailed state and county level picture of the quality of life of Maryland's children.

This factbook is an important tool in educating the public and decision-makers on the status of children in Maryland. It builds a strong and effective case for improving measurable outcomes for Maryland's children. It is our hope that the increased awareness resulting from the presentation of these data will prompt the interest of all Marylanders to work toward improving the quality of life for our children. This can be done by working together toward public and private solutions to the present and future crises our children face.

KIDS COUNT data will play an integral role in Maryland's systems reform initiative which seeks to improve the way in which needed services are delivered to children and families in Maryland. One of the major recommendations of this initiative is a move to outcome-based accountability which will require State and local jurisdictions to demonstrate effective service delivery to children and families. This will be achieved by the development of results every jurisdiction must strive to meet which are necessary to ensure the well-being of Maryland's children. Each result will be measured through several indicators, many of which have long been collected, analyzed and published by KIDS COUNT. The results identified are:

- Babies Born Healthy
- Healthy Adults
- Children Successful in School
- Communities which Support Family Life
- Stable and Economically Independent Families
- Healthy Children
- Children Enter School Ready to Learn
- Children Completing School
- Children Safe in Their Families and Communities

The Maryland KIDS COUNT Partnership's role in this move to outcome-based accountability will be to continue collection and analysis of critical data elements and work with the reform initiative to develop additional indicators. In addition the Partnership will participate in the identification of reliable data sources to fully evaluate Maryland's attainment of the results critical to the well-being of our children.

Key Findings About Maryland's Children

Promising News

Disturbing News

Paramount among the bad news is that 15.1% of our children live below the poverty threshold. This poverty rate increase of more than one third in six years means that one out of every seven children in Maryland is living without adequate shelter, clothing, nutrition and health-care. Additionally, for the fourth year in a row, our analysis has revealed increases in both the percentage of babies born low birth weight and the juvenile violent crime arrest rate.

Just as disheartening as these increases is the continued disparity between African Americans and whites on several key indicators. African American babies are born low birth weight and die before their first birthday at more than twice the rate of white babies. In 1995 one out of every six African American babies was born to a teenaged mother, as compared to one out of every fifteen white babies. The teen violent death rate for African American teenagers is 150% higher than for white teens. On nearly every indicator where it is possible to analyze by race, African American children are faring far worse than are white children.

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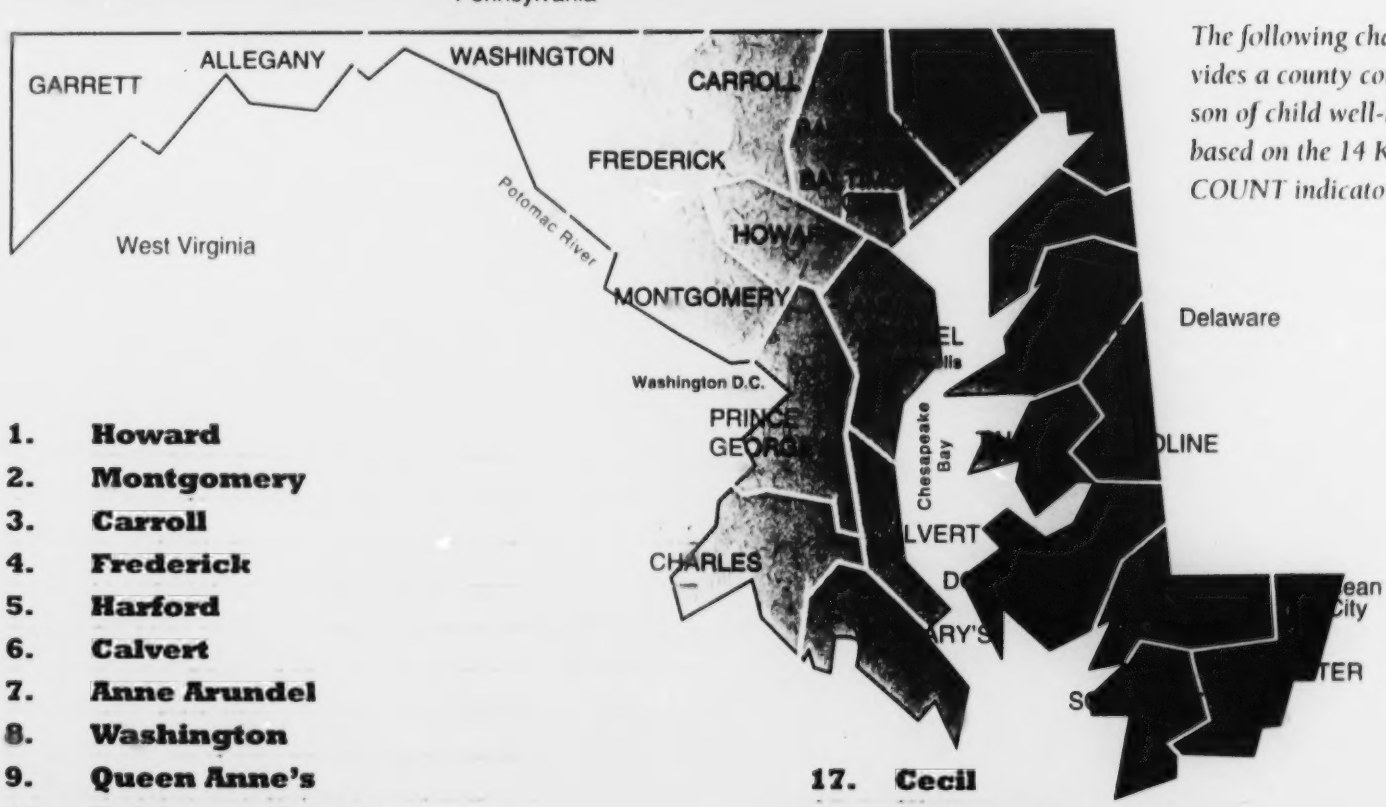
How Maryland Counties Rank



The following chart provides a county comparison of child well-being based on the 14 KIDS COUNT indicators.

1. **Howard**
2. **Montgomery**
3. **Carroll**
4. **Frederick**
5. **Harford**
6. **Calvert**
7. **Anne Arundel**
8. **Washington**
9. **Queen Anne's**
10. **Baltimore County**
11. **Garrett**
12. **St. Mary's**
13. **Allegany**
14. **Talbot**
15. **Charles**
16. **Kent**
17. **Cecil**
18. **Worcester**
19. **Prince George's**
20. **Caroline**
21. **Wicomico**
22. **Somerset**
23. **Dorchester**
24. **Baltimore City**

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How Maryland Counties Rank by Domain

Health	Economic Well-Being	Safety	Preparing For Adulthood
Carroll	Carroll	Montgomery	Howard
Garrett	Frederick	Howard	Frederick
Howard	Howard	Carroll	Montgomery
Allegany	Baltimore County	Allegany	Carroll
Harford	Charles	Washington	Harford
Calvert	Montgomery	Anne Arundel	Calvert
Kent	Talbot	Frederick	Talbot
Frederick	Calvert	Harford	Baltimore County
Worcester	Harford	Calvert	Kent
Anne Arundel	Washington	Baltimore County	Anne Arundel
St. Mary's	Cecil	Queen Anne's	Queen Anne's
Washington	Queen Anne's	Garrett	Allegany
Montgomery	Anne Arundel	Caroline	Dorchester
Somerset	St. Mary's	St. Mary's	St. Mary's
Charles	Prince George's	Charles	Worcester
Queen Anne's	Garrett	Talbot	Washington
Dorchester	Kent	Wicomico	Garrett
Wicomico	Caroline	Prince George's	Prince George's
Cecil	Somerset	Cecil	Charles
Baltimore City	Worcester	Somerset	Cecil
Baltimore County	Wicomico	Worcester	Wicomico
Talbot	Allegany	Kent	Caroline
Prince George's	Dorchester	Baltimore City	Baltimore City
Caroline	Baltimore City	Dorchester	Somerset

Domains	Measured By
Health	-Low Birthweight Infants -Infant Mortality -Lead Poisoning
Economic Well-Being	-Child Poverty -Child Support -Births to Teens
Safety*	-Child Death Rate -Teen Violence Deaths -Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests -School Violence
Preparing for Adulthood	-Third Grade Reading -On-Time Graduation -High School Program Completion

* *Does not include the Child Abuse/Neglect indicator.*

How Do We Rank?

How Does Baltimore City Compare to Other U.S. Cities*

- Percent of low birth weight babies *1994* — 47th
- Infant mortality *(deaths per 1,000 live births) 1991* — 39th
- Percent of births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care *1994* — 33rd
- Percent of all births to females under 18 *1994* — 48th
- Percent of youths ages 16-19 who were high school dropouts *1990* — 48th
- Percent of youths ages 16-19 who were unemployed *1990* — 30th
- Percent of children under 15 who lived in households that received public assistance *1989* — 42nd
- Percent of children in poverty *1989* — 35th
- Percent of children in single parent families *1990* — 48th
- Percent of children who lived in "distressed neighborhoods" *1990* — 44th

How Does Maryland Compare to Other States**

- Percent of low birth weight babies *1994* — 41st
- Infant mortality *(deaths per 1,000 live births) 1994* — 41st
- Child death rate *(deaths per 100,000 children 1-14) 1994* — 32nd
- Rate of teen violent death *(deaths per 100,000 children 15-19) 1994* — 18th
- Teen birth rate *(births per 1,000 females 15-17) 1994* — 27th
- Juvenile violent crime arrest rate *(per 100,000 youths 10-17) 1994* — 46th
- Percent of teens who are high school drop outs *(16-19) 1994* — 18th
- Percent of teens not attending school and not working *(16-19) 1994* — 18th
- Percent of children in poverty *1994* — 15th
- Percent of single parent families 31st *1994*

*Excerpted from City Kids Count - 1997, The Annie E. Casey Foundation (1=Best 50=Worst)

**Excerpted from Kids Count Data Book: State Profiles of Child Well-Being - 1997, The Annie E. Casey Foundation (1=Best 50=Worst)

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Guide to the Factbook

The 1996 Factbook provides data for 14 indicators of child well-being for each county. County-specific data are reported for time periods marked THEN and NOW. Data presented under the category of NOW are the most current data available. Because of time required for the collection and assembly of data by the agencies that serve as our primary data sources and the time required to produce the Factbook, data from 1995 and in a few instances 1996 are the most current available. Please note that "year" may be calender year or fiscal year. Please refer to the methodology section for clarification. Data presented under the category of THEN serve as baseline years. The reader is cautioned to check each indicator to determine the exact time period being reported.

10

The data in the 1996 Maryland KIDS COUNT Factbook is presented in three different ways: number, rate, and rank.

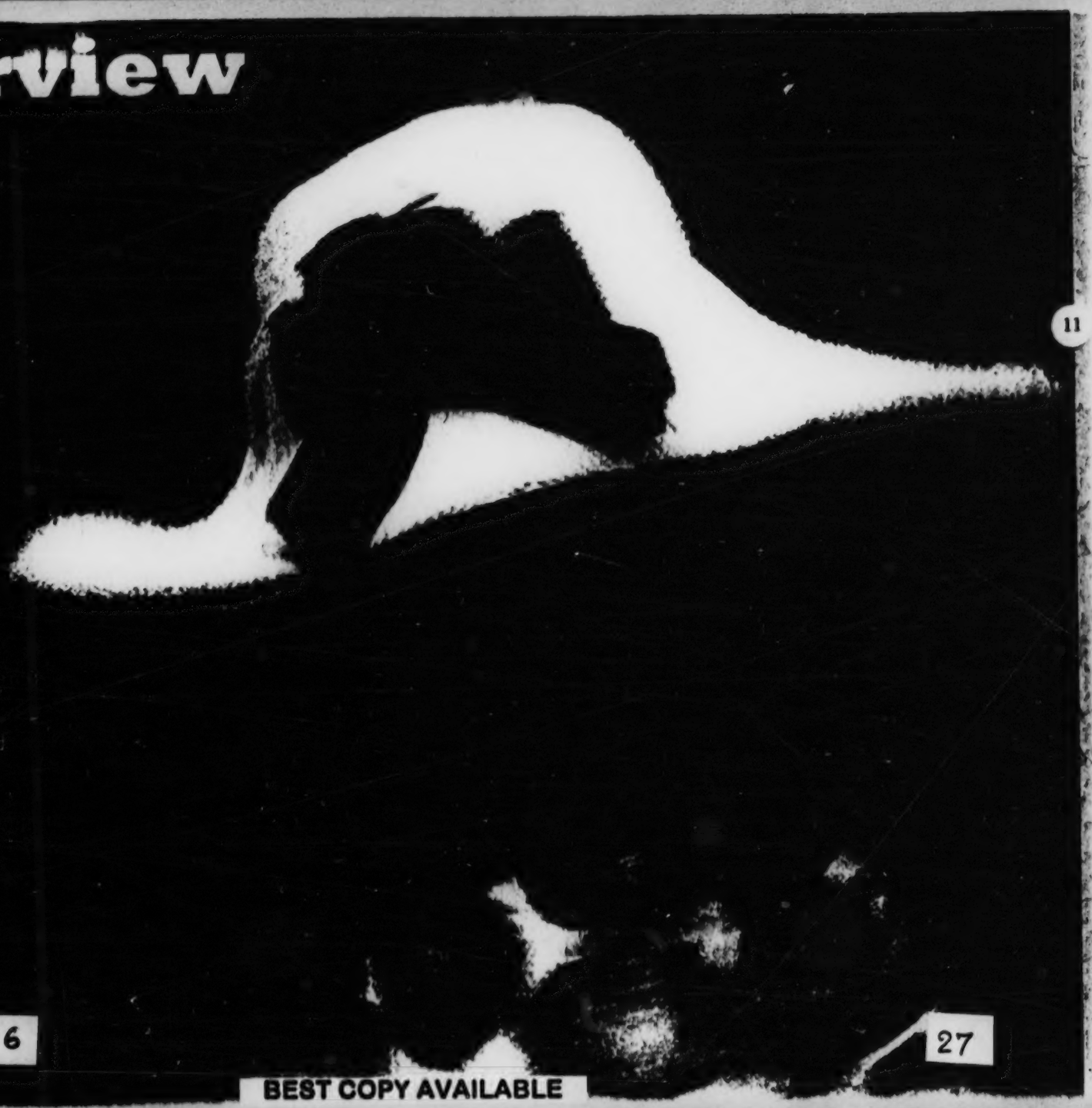
NUMBER: The most direct measure of the scope of a problem is the count of the number of events of concern, for example the number of births to mothers under age 20. County factsheets show the number of events for a designated time period.

RATE: A rate measures both the likelihood of an event and the severity of a problem. For example, if 10 out of every 100 births are low birthweight that is a low birthweight rate of 10 per 100 births or 10%. A rate is useful if you want to compare the severity of the problem in one area to another or from one time period to another. However, if you are planning an intervention and estimating the required resources, you will need to know the actual numbers.

A rate is calculated by dividing the number of events of interest by the number of persons that are "eligible" for the event and multiplying the yielded value by the chosen multiplier (e.g. 100, 1,000, 10,000, etc.)

RANK: In the 1996 Factbook, we used the rate or percentage to assign a ranking for each of the fourteen indicators. These rankings are then used to calculate overall county rankings. The overall ranking of a county is based on the sum of its rankings for each indicator. The county with the lowest sum total has the highest (best) rank. The county with the highest sum total has the lowest (worst) rank. The county rank tells how well the children in each county are faring compared to other jurisdictions in Maryland.

Overview



Economic Well-Being
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Safety
Child Death
Teen Violent Deaths
Child Abuse and Neglect
Juvenile Violent Crime
School Viol

Preparing for Adulthood
Third Grade Reading
On-Time Graduation
High School Dropouts

11

26

27

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ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

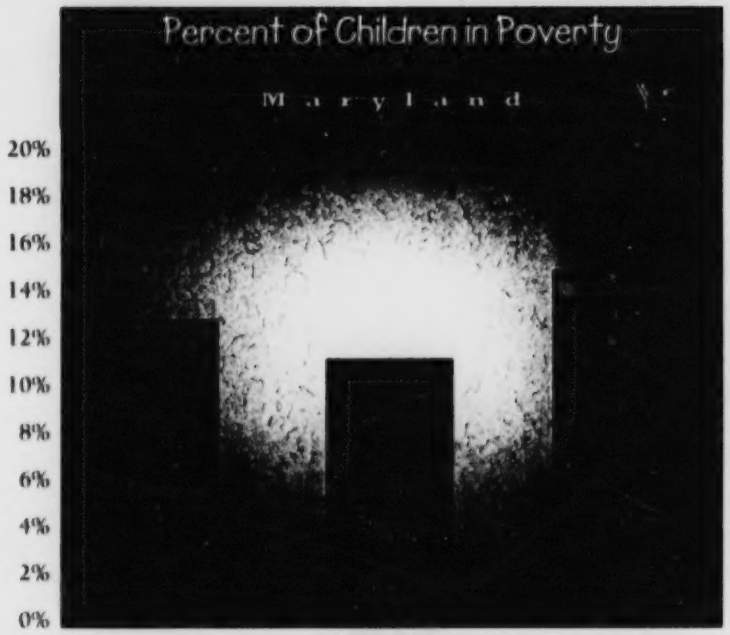
Child Poverty

12

Families should be able to feed, clothe and house their children.

Indicator Definition: Child poverty is the percent and number of related children under 18 whose families have incomes below the U.S. Poverty Threshold. The base year data presented at the state and county levels are from the 1990 and 1980 census' respectively. The process of estimating poverty during intercensal years is complicated and estimates are prone to high standard errors. Use of the Current Population Survey (CPS), a yearly survey done of 50,000 American homes, has proven to produce acceptable estimates of poverty rates at the state level which can be used with caution. Research has indicated that an acceptable poverty rate estimate may be obtained by averaging 3 to 5 years of CPS poverty rate estimates. For this reason the state poverty rate presented in the1996 Factbook is a mean (average) of CPS poverty rate estimates for years 1991-1995. Because of the relatively small sample size of the CPS, county level poverty rate estimates are not possible, therefore most current year data at the county level are from the 1990 census.

Significance: Economic security is the necessary first step to giving a child the opportunity to fully realize his or her potential. Because poverty affects virtually every area of a child's life, it is one of the most widely used and powerful indicators of child well-being. Children living in poverty are more likely to suffer from a host of problems including lead poisoning, abuse and neglect, problems in school, premature parenthood and developmental delays associated with pre and post-natal malnutrition. While poverty is a problem for all of Maryland's children, children of color are disproportionately poor. African American children are nearly four times more likely to live in poverty than



* Percentage is a mean of Current Population Survey estimates, 1991-95.
Source: US Bureau of the Census

white children. It is projected that by the year 2010 half of all African American and Hispanic children will be poor.

MARYLAND FINDINGS: Between 1979 and 1989 there was a 13% drop in the number of children living in poverty in Maryland. Unfortunately this downward trend has not held. Based on Current Population Survey poverty rate estimates, the percent of children living in poverty has increased from 10.9% in 1989 to 15.1% in 1995. This means that there are close to 50,000 more children living in poverty today than in 1989.

COUNTY FINDINGS: Although the 1990 census reports that 20 Maryland counties saw a reduction in the percentage of its' children living in poverty between the years 1979 and 1989, children are still the poorest of Maryland's citizens. Baltimore City and Allegany County have the highest percent of children

How Poverty is Measured:

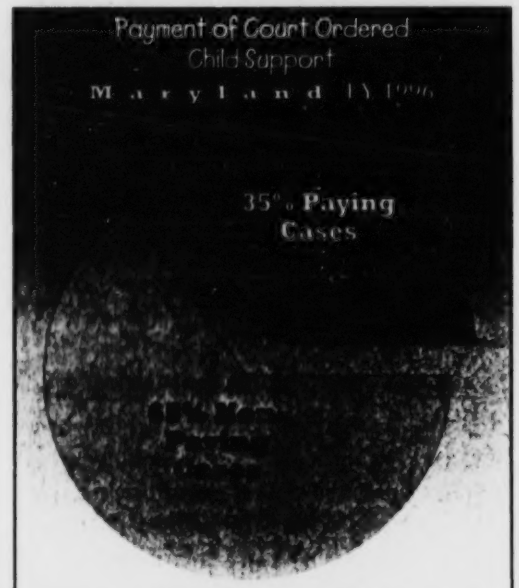
The federal government's official poverty index is used to classify people as above or below the poverty line. The poverty level, created in 1964, was computed by using as a yardstick the amount of money necessary to purchase the lowest nutritionally adequate diet. This price was then multiplied by three to obtain a poverty threshold. A family is officially classified as poor if its cash income (wages, pensions, social security benefits and all other forms of cash income) falls below the poverty threshold. The poverty income thresholds are updated each year to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index (inflation). The 1996 poverty guideline is $12,273 for a family of three.

living in poverty, 32.2% and 24% respectively. Of the four counties with an increase in the percent of its children living in poverty, Allegany County had the largest increase from 15.4% in 1979 to 24% in 1989, a 56% increase. Calvert and Charles Counties had impressive decreases on this indicator of between five and six percentage points each; dropping to 6.5% and 5.4% respectively.

Child Support

Indicator Definition: This indicator is the number and percent of child support cases with active court orders for which any payment has been received. A serious limitation of this data is that a payment can be as little as $1 and still be considered a payment.

Significance: With the rates of out-of-wedlock births and divorce on the rise, more than one-half of the children in Maryland will spend some or all of their childhood in a single parent home. All too often a one parent family means one income and translates into more children in poverty. In Maryland one in five children living in a single parent family is living in poverty. Even more dismal, 40% of children under five living in female-headed households are living in poverty. The lack of child support by non-custodial parents threatens the economic, physical and emotional well-being of many of our children.



Source: Maryland Department of Human Resources

MARYLAND FINDINGS: While the percent of paying cases has risen slightly from 34.1% in 1993 to 35% in 1996, this is actually a decrease from 1995 when 35.6% of cases with court orders were paying cases. The importance of these fluctuations are negligible. The bottom line is between the years 1993 and 1996 approximately 65% of court ordered child support cases received no payment.

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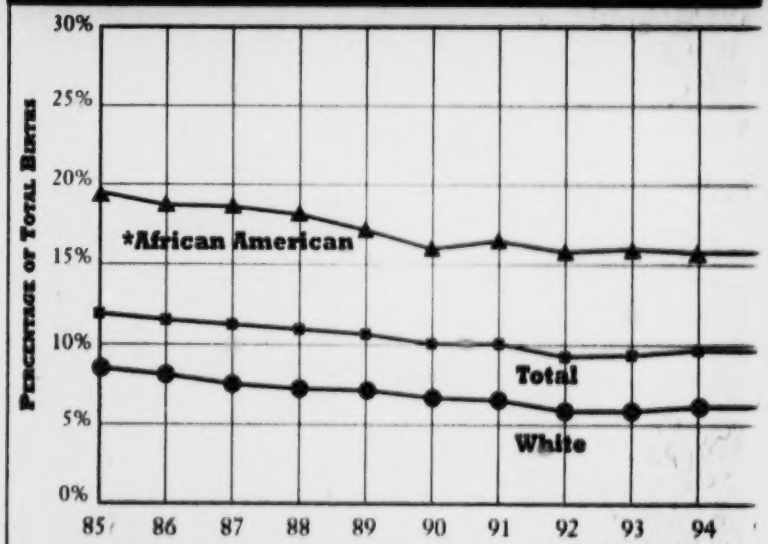
Overview

COUNTY FINDINGS: In 1996 nearly every county demonstrated an increase on this indicator ranging from very slight increases of one percentage point (Cecil County) to more significant increases of twelve percentage points (Talbot). The two jurisdictions with the most cases are Prince George's County and Baltimore City. While Baltimore City's percent of paying cases for1996 has essentially remained unchanged since 1993, Prince George's County's percent of paying cases fell by six percentage points. However, despite this decline Prince George's County is still significantly more successful in collecting payments with more than 52% of its cases paying compared with only 16% of Baltimore City's.

Teen Birth

Indicator Definition: This indicator is the percent of all births at the state or county level to women under age 20. Because this indicator is a percentage of all births rather than a population-based rate it should be used with caution, especially in instances where the numbers are small. Fluctuations in the number of births in a jurisdiction can have significant and misleading effects on percentages. For example, if in 1993 one hundred babies were born, forty of them to women under twenty, the percent of births to teens was 40%. However, if the following year only 80 babies are born but once again 40 are born to teenaged mothers, the percent births to teens is now 50%. At face value one might incorrectly surmise that more teenagers had babies in 1994 than in the previous year. For this reason the population-based teen birth rate must also be considered in order to accurately pinpoint the nature of the trend. A population based rate is the measure of the likelihood of an event. In this case it is the likelihood that out of every

Graph C Percent Births to Teens (15-19): Maryland 1985-95



Source: Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
* African American may include other races

1,000 females ages 15-19 "x" will give birth. A rate is calculated by dividing the number of events by the number of people eligible for the event.

Significance: Babies born to teenaged mothers are more likely to suffer a host of lifelong problems. Pregnant teens are more likely to have inadequate or no prenatal care, suffer preterm labor and the babies born to them have a higher incidence of being low birth weight and dying before their first birthday. There are considerable economic hurdles to overcome as well. In 1994 nearly 90% of Maryland women under 20 who gave birth were unmarried. While there is heated debate about what these statistics say about American morality, there can be no argument that they foretell a generation of

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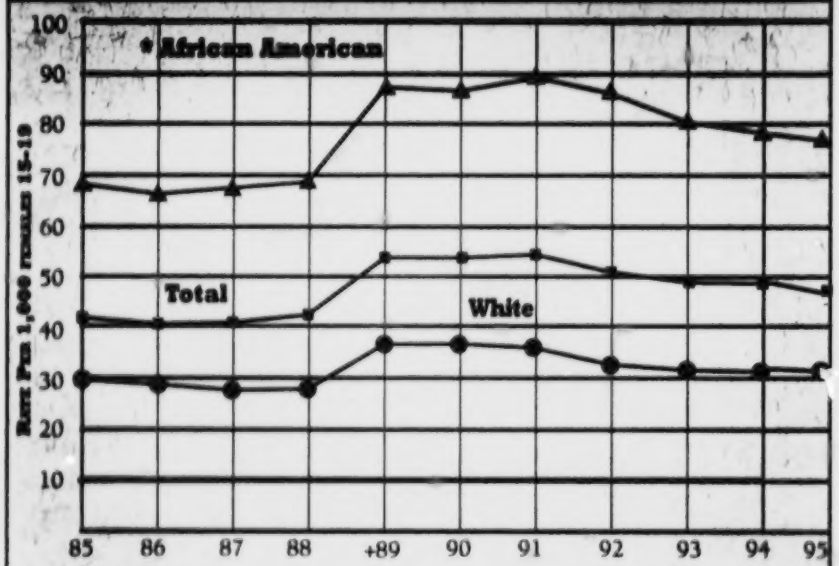
Overview

children who will live in poverty because they live in a one income, female-headed family. Many of these young women have little education and even less earning potential. Teenage parents are two times more likely to live in poverty and earn fully one half as much as women who begin childbearing after age twenty. This translates into mothers who are unable to provide an adequate living environment, suitable nutrition and quality health care for their children.

MARYLAND FINDINGS: Since 1985 there has been a gradual decrease in the percent of total births to teens from 12.1% to 10.2% in 1995. As graph C illustrates, this decline holds consistent when the races are separated; for African Americans and whites the percent of births to teens has dropped between two and three percentage points in the past ten years. While the percent of total births to teens has decreased since 1985, the teen birth rate has grown by 18% from 41.2 per 1,000 in 1985 to 48.4 in 1994. An examination of graph D illustrates what appears to be a dramatic jump in teen birth rate between 1988 and 1989. Because the population estimates used to calculate teen birth rate between census years 1979 and 1989 had overestimated the teenage population, the resulting rates were too low. The reason for the steep magnitude of the increase in 1989 is because 1989 was a census year and the rates were based on actual census numbers rather than on flawed population estimates. Since 1991 the teen birth rate has decreased by 12% but is still 16% higher than in 1985.

COUNTY FINDINGS: The analysis for the 1996 Factbook yielded decreases in the percent of births to teens in nineteen of the twenty-four counties in Maryland. During the past ten years the counties in the Baltimore metropolitan area, the Eastern Shore area, and both the Southern and Northwest areas have shown reductions in the percent of total births to teenaged

Graph D Teen Birth Rates
Maryland 1985-94



Source: Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
+ Census year * African American may include other races

mothers, dropping an average of two percentage points. This is especially good news for the Baltimore metro area which experienced a 15.7% decrease in the number of babies born to females under 20 between the years 1985 and 1995. Teen birth rate has followed the same pattern at the county level as at the state level, overall rising slightly over the last ten years. Counties in the Baltimore metropolitan and Eastern Shore areas have the highest teen birth rates in the state.

Overview

GOOD HEALTH

Low Birthweight

(16)

Indicator Definition: The rate of low birthweight births is the number and percent of babies born weighing 2500 grams (5.5 pounds) or less at birth.

Children should have the physical and mental health care they need to be healthy, secure and strong.

Significance: The strength of this indicator is that it is an estimation of both the child's immediate and future health and well-being. It is also the strongest indicator of infant survival. Babies who are born low birthweight are at greater risk for dying during their first year of life, more likely to have neurodevelopmental problems (e.g., cerebral palsy), mental retardation and learning disabilities, birth defects and face a greater probability of being abused or neglected. Additionally, the rate of babies born low birthweight is a reflection of maternal health and general well-being. Mothers who give birth to babies of low birthweight are often economically disadvantaged, poorly educated, under nourished and have limited access to health care. They are also more likely to have used drugs, alcohol and tobbacco during pregnancy. All of these factors are well documented risk factors for giving birth to a low birthweight baby. While the majority of low birthweight babies develop normally, most children with developmental disabilities were born low birth weight. There is great disparity in low birthweight rates between African Americans and whites. Nationally, African Americans are more than twice as likely to have a baby weighing under 2500 grams than are whites. While it is clear that some of this disparity is due to African Americans being disproportionately poor and therefore exposed to many of the well-documented risk factors for low birthweight, it does not account for all of it. Hispanics who are

also disproportionately poor have rates of low birthweight and infant mortality similar to whites.

MARYLAND FINDINGS: The analysis of the low birthweight rate for years 1985-1990 as compared to years 1991-1995 finds a slight increase in the rate from 7.9% to 8.3%. As the graph illustrates, between 1985 and 1995 African American babies are born low birthweight at a consistently higher rate than their white counter parts. In 1995 the low birthweight rate for African Americans was more than twice the rate for whites.

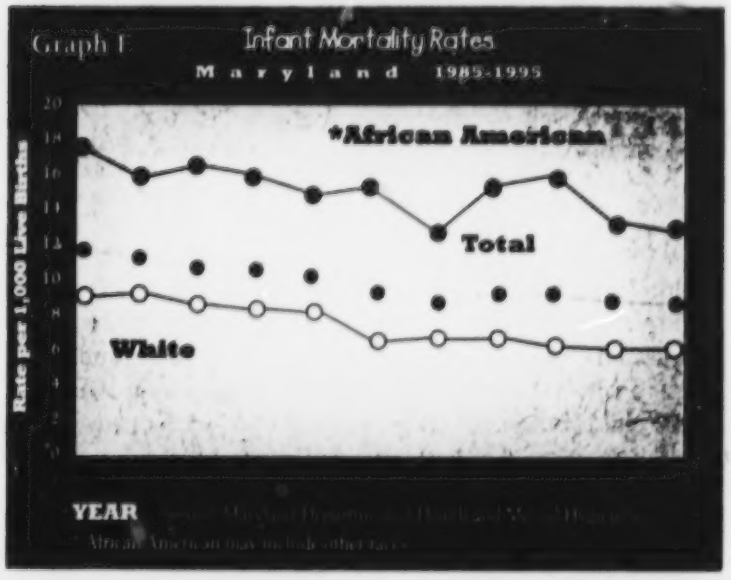
COUNTY FINDINGS: For the third year Carroll County is ranked first on this indicator, having the lowest low birthweight rate in the state. While the increases are not dramatic, sixteen counties did have increases of two percentage points or less.

Overview

Infant Mortality

Indicator Definition: Infant mortality rate is the number of infants who die before their first birthday per 1,000 live births.

Significance: Infant mortality rate is an outcome measure which reflects the overall health of a community. It encompasses the health of women during pregnancy, the general health of infants, the adequacy of pre and post-natal health care and the quality of the living conditions during an infant's first year of life. There are a number of risk factors highly correlated with infant mortality including low birthweight, poverty and birth to a teenaged parent. The major causes of infant death are sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), birth defects, unsafe housing and inadequate supervision.



MARYLAND FINDINGS: The infant mortality rate has been steadily declining for the last ten years from 11.9 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1985 to 8.7 in 1995. Although the African American infant mortality rate has dropped significantly between 1985 and 1995 from 17.8 to 13.2, it is still twice the white infant mortality rate, which decreased from 9 per 1,000 to 6 during the same period.

COUNTY FINDINGS: Between the years 1985-1990 and 1991-1995 infant mortality rates declined for twenty counties. An examination of infant mortality rates over the last ten years illustrates a notable decline for the vast majority of Maryland counties. Most notable among these decreases is the Baltimore City rate which decreased from an alarming 16.9 to a lower although still quite troubling 12.5.

Lead Screening

Indicator Definition: Lead poisoning is the percentage and number of children under age six who are screened for lead poisoning by venous or capillector (fingerstick) specimen. Children with blood lead levels of 10 -19 mcg/dL (venous) or 10 mcg/dL or more (capillary) are diagnosed as lead exposed. A diagnosis of lead poisoning is made with venous blood lead levels of 20 mcg/dL or higher. Laboratories are required to report the results of all lead screens to the Maryland Childhood Lead Registry Program. However, due to less than 100% compliance with this requirement and incomplete reporting of some of the results, thousands of children are screened whose results are excluded due to incomplete or absentee reporting.

Significance: The dangers of sustained lead exposure are well documented. Young children under six who have prolonged lead exposure are at risk for neurological complications including

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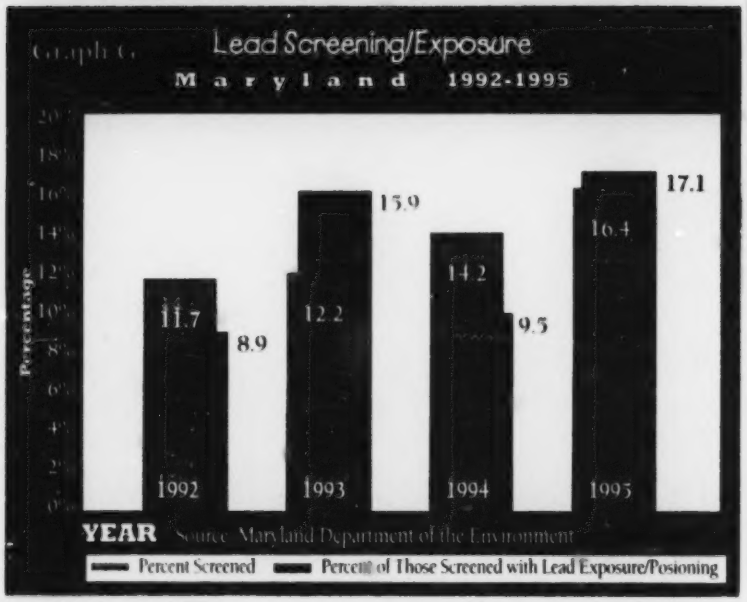
Overview



MARYLAND FINDINGS: The good news is that 40% more Maryland children were screened for lead exposure in 1995 than in 1992. However, even though over 70,000 children were screened for lead this represents only 16% of the population, far from the goal of universal screening. Also disturbing is that of those children screened the percentage with lead exposure or poisoning has risen from 9% in 1992 to over 17% in 1995.

COUNTY FINDINGS: There were increases in the number and percent of children screened for lead exposure between 1992 and 1995 in twelve counties including Baltimore City which had a more than 50% increase in the number of children screened. Unfortunately during this same time period twelve counties saw decreases, some quite serious, (e.g., Baltimore County dropped to a paltry 2.1% from 13.5%). The percentage of children screened ranges from a high of 57.1% (Baltimore City) to a low of 2.1% (Baltimore County).

(18)

Children should have caring families, safe homes, schools and streets that are free of fear and violence.

learning disabilities, mental retardation and shortened attention spans. Children at greatest risk are poor, and live in sub-standard or older housing. An estimated ninety-five percent of homes built in Maryland before 1950 contain lead paint. Seventy-five percent of homes built as recently as 1978 are believed to contain lead. In 1991 Maryland adopted the Centers for Disease Control's recommendation for universal screening of all children under six. An anticipated revision of this recommendation is expected in 1997 which will advise each state to devise their own guidelines based upon the prevalence of lead poisoning and presence of risk factors. The Maryland State Department of the Environment is expected to change their recommendation to universal testing of only high risk children, although they anticipate continuing the universal screening recommendation for Baltimore City.

SAFETY

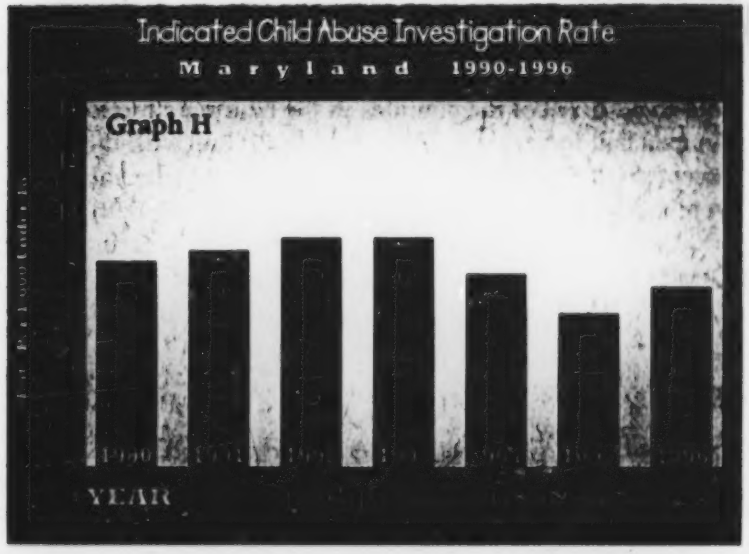
Child Abuse and Neglect

Indicator Definition: The rate of indicated child abuse investigations is a proxy indicator for the occurrence of child abuse and neglect in our community. It is a rate based on the number of indicated child abuse investigations in each county and the state as a whole. Each year in Maryland there are approximately 29,000 child abuse/neglect investigations and each one is given a final disposition of either unsubstantiated, indicated or ruled out. An indicated finding means "there is credible evidence which has not been satisfactorily refuted, that abuse, neglect, or sexual abuse did occur." This data must be interpreted with cau-

Overview

tion, as it is not the true occurrence of child abuse or neglect in our community. It is only an estimation of the magnitude of the problem. It has been estimated that only five percent of incidences of child abuse are ever reported. Another cause for caution are changing regulations within the child welfare system which may affect how many cases are investigated and how they are dispositioned. If a county is forced to decrease the number of investigators on staff due to funding constraints, the result may be fewer investigated cases and therefore, fewer indicated investigations. The result would be a downward trend, not because fewer children were being harmed but because of artificial influences. These influences need to be taken into account when interpreting these data.

Significance: Child maltreatment is a serious community problem which reflects society's failure to care for, nurture, and protect children. Maltreatment has devastating lifelong effects on its victims. We now know it is not just the problem of the poor or uneducated. Victims and perpetrators of child abuse come from all classes, races and walks of life. Parents are at greater risk for abusing their children if they are poor, unemployed, have drug and/or alcohol problems, or if they are themselves victims of domestic violence. Child abuse and neglect has serious consequences on a child's physical, behavioral, and cognitive development. Learning disorders, attention problems, low self-esteem, long-term health and mental health problems and even violent behavior can result from childhood maltreatment.



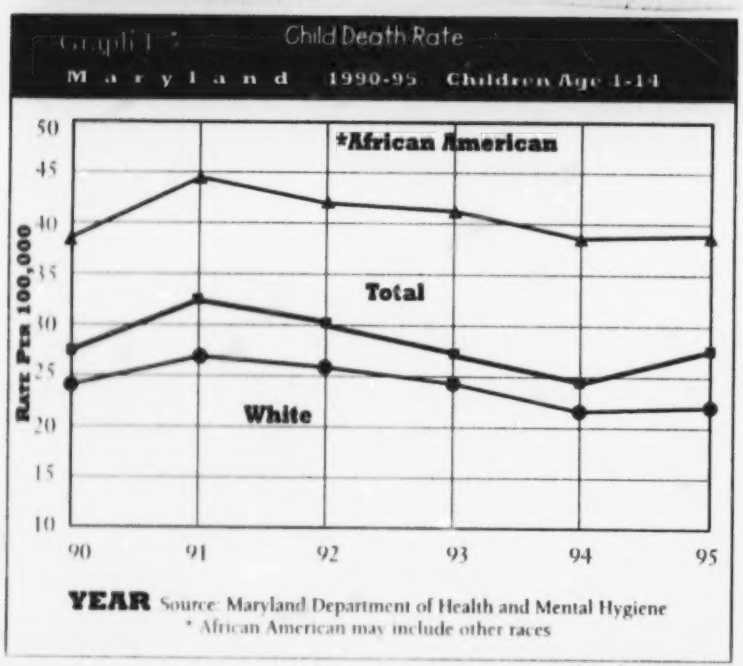
MARYLAND FINDINGS: Since 1990 the rate of indicated child abuse investigations has decreased by 12% from 8.2 per 1,000 children under eighteen in 1990 to 7.2 in 1996.

COUNTY FINDINGS: Similar to the state level data there have been decreases in the rate of indicated child abuse investigations for fifteen counties including a 47% decrease in Carroll County and a 45% decrease in Harford County. Most notable among the counties with increases is Kent County which demonstrated a remarkable 72% increase from a rate of 3.9 in 1990 to 6.8 in 1996.

Child Death

Indicator Definition: The child death rate is a population-based rate of the number of deaths resulting from all causes per 100,000 children between the ages of one and fourteen. A limitation of this indicator (and of all death indicators) is that it does not shed any light on the quality of life of the numerous children who survive life-threatening injury or illness.

Overview



Significance: Child death rate is an outcome measure which provides information about the health status of children in our state and the risk factors to which they are exposed. Child deaths are outcomes of either health problems (e.g., birth-related problems, childhood illness, or untreated chronic conditions), or injury, (e.g., unsafe living environments, intentional/ unintentional accidents). It is also a measure of the effectiveness of public health and accident prevention public education strategies, i.e. use of smoke detectors, safety belts/car seats, and bike helmets. Children who live in poverty are 2-3 times more likely to die as a result of injury, and 3-4 times more likely to die from illness than children who are not poor. It is hypothesized this disparity is due to limited access to quality emergency and non-emergency healthcare and because poor children often live in unsafe environments where they are exposed to violence, environmental hazards and inadequate supervision.

MARYLAND FINDINGS: Our aggregate year analysis yielded a 10% decrease in the child death rate from 30.3 per 100,000 during years 1989-1991 to 27.4 during years 1992-95. Between the years 1990 to 1995 the child death rate for whites also decreased by 10% to 21.4 per 100,000 from 23.7. For African Americans and other races the rate has remained unchanged at 34.4 per 100,000, fully 60% higher than the rate for white children.

COUNTY FINDINGS: There have been significant reductions on this indicator in sixteen counties. The Eastern Shore counties experienced the most dramatic decreases, including a 65% decrease in Queen Anne's County from 50.7 per 100,000 to 17.5 and a 50% decrease in Talbot County from 45.4 to 22.6. All of the counties in the Baltimore metropolitan area had increases in their child death rate with the exception of Carroll and Baltimore Counties where there were moderate decreases of less than 15%. Of the Baltimore area counties with increases, the greatest was in Harford County where the rate increased by 40%.

Overview

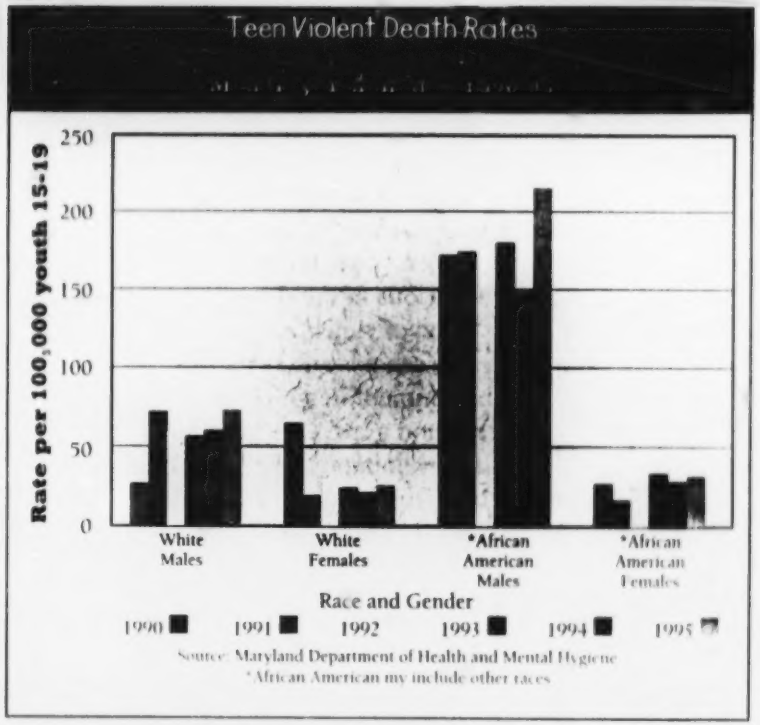
Teen Violent Death

Indicator Definition: Teen violent death rate is the number of teenagers 15-19 who die from homicide, accidents or suicide per 100,000 youths 15-19.

Indicator Significance: Like the child death rate, the teen violent death rate is an outcome measure which gauges behaviors by teens which have resulted in death. A significant component of this indicator is that it is not only a measure of environmental risks but also of the risk-taking behavior of teens. The developmental stage which peaks during adolescence has a well-documented risk taking component which may lead teenagers into dangerous and even life-threatening situations. Teen violent death is also an indicator of the stress, hostility and/or despair teens may feel and the degree to which they have adequate social and family support and access to mental health and other services.

MARYLAND FINDINGS: An aggregate year analysis of teen violent death for years 1988-91 and 1992-95 has shown little change in the state level teen violent death rate. However, as the accompanying graph illustrates, there are significant and enduring gender and race based rate differences. Clearly African American adolescent males are dying at the hands of violence significantly more than any other group. The rate for this group is consistently two to eight times higher than for any other. In 1995 the teen violent death rate for African American males was 200% higher than for white males; 500% higher than for African American females; and 700% higher than for white females.

COUNTY FINDINGS: The 1996 analysis yielded decreased teen violent death rates in sixteen counties. Caroline county demonstrated the largest decline, reducing by 77% from a rate



of 120 per 100,000 during years 1988-91 to 27.6 per 100,000 during years 1992-95. During the same time period five other counties had decreases in their rates of 40% or greater.

School Violence

Indicator Definition: Violence related suspension rate is the number of suspensions or expulsions resulting from verbal or physical attacks against teachers, staff or students per 1,000 students. Although guidelines exist, there is no uniform statewide code for determining whether an act warrants suspension or expulsion, so the decision to expel or suspend is up to the discretion of each school administrator. The result is that behavior that warrants expulsion in one school may not warrant it in another, making comparisons of rates problematic. The reader should use caution in interpreting these data.

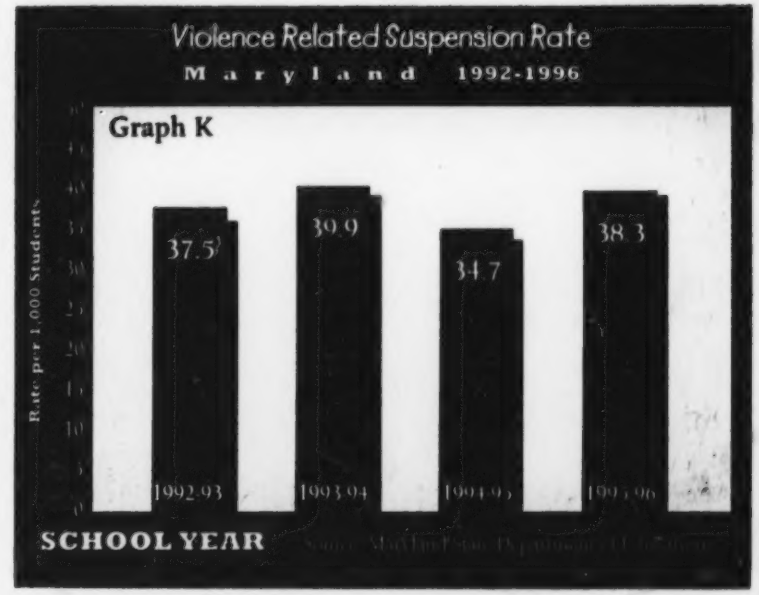
Overview

(22)

Significance: The number of violence related school suspensions/expulsions is one of the few ways to assess the level of violence in schools and gives us a window into the environment in which children spend a great deal of time. The school environment is not impervious to the rising problems in the community. When the level of violence increases in our neighborhoods, it is reflected in schools and negatively affects this critically important environment in which children need to feel safe in order to learn and grow. Violence within school walls hinders the social development of students and impedes the learning process. It causes increased stress for students, teachers and staff and creates an atmosphere of fear which ultimately interferes with teaching and learning. According to a November 1994 survey of 700 communities by the National League of Cities, one in every four schools reported serious injury or death due to violence in the previous year.

MARYLAND FINDINGS: Since school year 1992-93 the violence related suspension rate fluctuated between 35 and 40 violence related suspensions per 1,000 students. There was an 10.3% increase between school year 1994-95 and 1995-96 from 34.7 to 38.3.

COUNTY FINDINGS: There were increases in the violent suspension rate in eighteen counties between school years 1992-93 and 1995-96. Somerset County is ranked lowest on this indicator. Although there has been a 34% decrease in their rate since 1993, it is still the highest in Maryland with a rate of 120.2 per 1,000 students. It is worth noting that there has been a remarkable decrease in the rate for Baltimore City schools. The violent suspension rate has fallen from 56.3 in 1993 to 23.5 in 1996, a more than 58% decrease in four years.



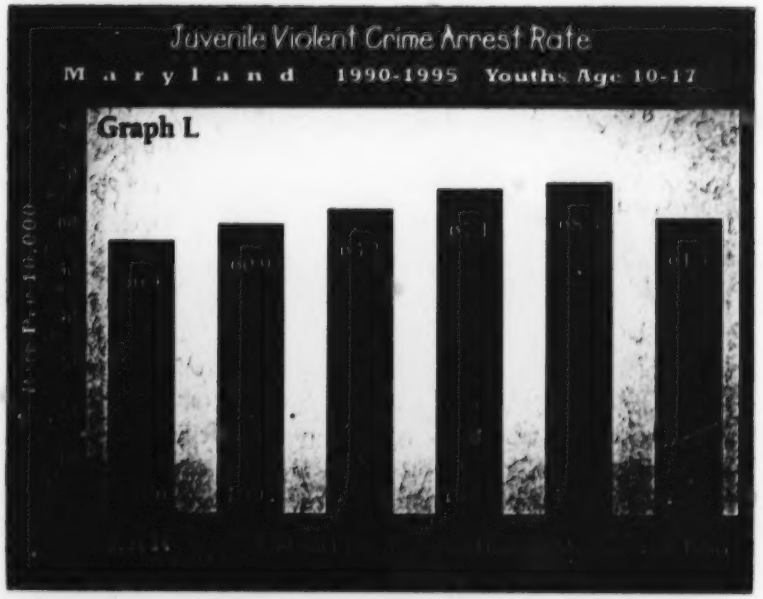
Overview

Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate

Indicator Definition: The juvenile violent crime arrest rate is the number of arrests of juveniles for a violent offense (i.e. homicide, aggravated assault, forcible rape, and robbery), per 10,000 youths ages 10-17.

Significance: Being arrested for a violent crime clearly has serious short and long term ramifications and can significantly affect the life course of affected adolescents. There are a number of factors which place adolescents at risk for becoming involved in violent crime. Living in unstable communities with high poverty rates, elevated school dropout rates, teen pregnancy and unemployment rates are all risk factors which place adolescents at jeopardy for committing a violent crime. Children who have been neglected, abused and/or exposed to family violence are also at risk for displaying aggressive and violent behavior.

MARYLAND FINDINGS: The teen violent arrest rate for Maryland decreased by 10% between 1994 and 1995. However when looking back to 1990 we find an overall increase of 6% growing from 57.8 per 10,000 youths 10-17, to 61.4 in 1995. The actual number of violence related juvenile arrests has grown by more than twenty percent in the last five years.



COUNTY FINDINGS: At the county level there have been tremendous increases in the rate of teen violent arrests. Between the years 1990 and 1995 sixteen counties experienced elevations in their rates, many of them tremendous in magnitude. Howard County's rate has increased from 12.4 in 1990 to 44 in 1995, a jump of more than 250%. Other jurisdictions whose rates increased more than twofold include Anne Arundel, Caroline, Kent, Talbot, and Baltimore counties.

Overview

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

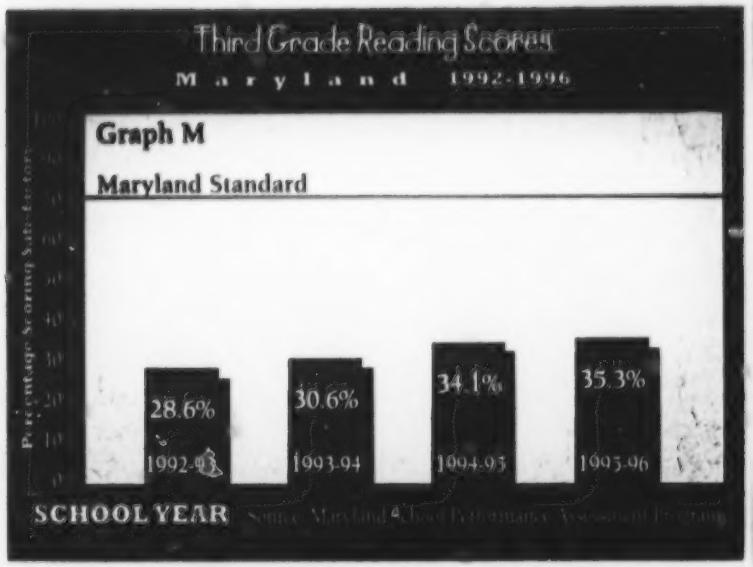
THIRD GRADE READING

(24)

Indicator Definition: Third grade reading is the percent of students scoring satisfactory on tests given as part of the Maryland School Performance Assessment Program.

Significance: The Maryland School Performance Assessment Program (MSPAP) was begun in 1993 to assess school performance as a part of the education reform movement in Maryland. Results for individual students are combined to assess the overall performance of a school, and ultimately of the entire school system at the county and state levels. All students in grades 3, 5 & 8 participate, (few are exempted) in assessments on reading, mathematics, language usage, science and social studies. MSPAP focuses on "higher level thinking skills" i.e., it assesses students' ability to apply knowledge and skills to solve real-life problems and make decisions. Third grade reading ability is a powerful indicator of future academic achievement and is closely associated with household income. The 1993 Maryland School Performance Report showed that as poverty increased, student reading levels decreased. Students attending schools with less than 5% of students receiving free or reduced lunch (a proxy indicator of poverty) are four times more likely to score satisfactory or better in third grade reading than students in schools with seventy to one hundred percent of students receiving free or reduced lunch. Other factors highly correlated with poor student performance are low birth weight, inadequate nutrition, lead poisoning and child abuse/neglect.

Children should learn how to become responsible adults who can advance themselves while being sensitive to others.



MARYLAND FINDINGS: While still far below the Maryland satisfactory standard which requires at least 70% of students to score satisfactory or better, there has been steady improvement in the last four years. In school year 1992-93, 28.6% of students reached this goal. In school year 1995-96 it increased to 35.3%, a more than twenty-three percent increase.

COUNTY FINDINGS: All jurisdictions except Baltimore City and Somerset, Garrett and Queen Anne's counties had a higher percentage of students scoring satisfactory on MSPAP in 1995-96 than when the assessment program began in 1992-93. Most notable among these increases is Dorchester County where there have been significant gains each year resulting in an increase from 15.2% in 1992-93 to 40.4% in 1995-96. Baltimore City ranked last on this indicator for the fourth year in a row, with more than twelve percentage points between it and the next lowest ranked county.

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Overview

ON-TIME GRADUATION

Indicator Definition: On-time graduation is the percentage of students who complete their high school education within four years. This is calculated by the number of June graduates divided by the number of students enrolled in ninth grade four years earlier. This rate does not include those who drop out of high school and eventually earn their high school diploma or General Equivalency Diploma (GED) and does not take into account entrants and withdrawals during the four year period.

Significance: While earning a high school diploma does not guarantee economic security it does indicate a student's acquisition of basic knowledge and skills upon which he or she may build, either in continued formal education or in the workplace. A teen who does not complete at least this much formal education faces a restricted range of employment opportunities and severely limited earning potential. Competition for these low wage, unskilled jobs will be increasing with the influx of former welfare recipients that are anticipated due to welfare reform. Individuals who do not complete high school are more likely to live in low-income families, have a handicapping condition or a learning disability, have repeated at least one grade, engage in delinquent behavior and have a child before the age of 20.

MARYLAND FINDINGS: Since 1990 the percent of on-time graduates has remained relatively stable at approximately seventy-five percent.

COUNTY FINDINGS: At the county level there has been little remarkable change on this indicator, in either direction. While twelve of the twenty-four counties showed improvement they were minimal. Only Fredreck County has increased by nine percent from 87.3% in 1990 to 95.5% in 1996. Somerset County experienced a fourteen percent decrease from 73.3% to 63%.

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Overview

High School Program Completion

Indicator Definition: High school program completion is the percent of graduating students who have completed the minimum requirements for admission into the University of Maryland System in addition to completion of requirements to receive a high school diploma.

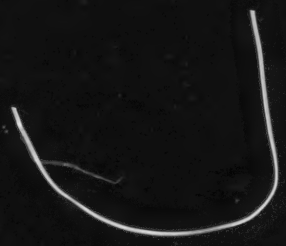
26

Significance: In this age of rapidly evolving technology, education beyond high school is necessary to be competitive and marketable in the job market. Today's most lucrative and briskly expanding careers require greater technical knowledge, advanced language skills and the ability to apply complex theories and concepts. The economic benefits of a college education are clear; education and income are positively correlated. As educational attainment increases income also increases. However, despite the obvious benefits to completing an advanced degree, nationally less than half of high school graduates go to college and of those who go, only about twenty-five percent complete their degree. There are also racial and gender differences in educational attainment. In 1990 12% of white males and 10% of white females in Maryland reported having a bachelors degree as compared to 5% of African American males and 6% of African American females.

MARYLAND FINDINGS: Since 1991 the percent of students graduating having completed the minimum requirements for admission to the University of Maryland System has increased steadily to over 50%. This is an increase of more than sixteen percent in five years.

COUNTY FINDINGS: Fifteen counties have experienced increases on this indicator since 1991, many of them significant. The most notable is a 151% increase in Harford County from 24.4% in 1991 to 61.4% in 1996. In 1991 there were only two counties where at least half of graduates had completed the minimum requirement for entrance into the University of Maryland System. In 1996 there were eight counties who reached this target.

County Fact Sheets



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Maryland State Factsheet

STATE CAPITOL: ANNAPOLIS
14 Benchmarks for Maryland's children.

	Then			Now			Trend
Economic Well Being	No.	Rate	Base Yr.	No.	Rate	Current Yr.	
Children in Poverty	124,149	10.9%	(1989)	171,230	15.1%	(1995)	worse
Paying Child Support Cases	82,593	34.1%	(1993)	85,248	35.0%	(1996)	better
Births to Teens	50,005	11.2%	(1985-90)	38,156	10.1%	(1991-95)	better
Good Health							
Low Birthweight Infants (weighing less than 5.5 lbs.)	34,965	7.9%	(1985-90)	31,514	8.3%	(1991-95)	worse
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	4,887	11.0	(1985-90)	3,516	9.3	(1991-95)	better
Children Screened for Lead Poisoning	50,007	11.7%	(1992)	70,136	16.4%	(1995)	better
Safety							
Child Death Rate (ages 1-14, per 100,000 children)	1,108	30.3	(1988-1991)	1,127	27.4	(1992-95)	better
Teen Violent Death Rate (ages 15-19, per 100,000 teens)	899	67.4	(1989-91)	822	67.3	(1992-95)	better
Indicated Child Abuse and Neglect Rate (per 1,000 children)	9,555	8.2	(1990)	9,169	7.2	(1996)	lower
Violence Related Suspension Rate (per 1,000 students)	27,588	37.5	(1992-93)	30,191	38.3	(1995-96)	worse
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (ages 10-17, per 10,000)	2,708	57.8	(1990)	3,626	61.4	(1995)	worse
Preparing for Adulthood							
Third Grade Reading*		28.6%	(1992)		35.3%	(1996)	better
On-Time Graduation Rate		72.8%	(1989-90)		74.7%	(1995-96)	better
High School Program Completion**		43.5%	(1991)		50.8%	(1996)	better

* percent of students scoring satisfactory or above in Maryland School Performance Assessment Program test
** percent of students meeting minimal requirements for the University of Maryland System

Children and Family Services/Programs

	Base Year	Most Current Year	% Change Maryland
Adults Receiving FIP/TANF (1996)	59,526		
Children Receiving FIP/TANF (1990/1996)	121,861	144,072	18.2%
Children Enrolled in Medicaid (1990/1996)	144,546	218,111	50.9%
Children/Infants Participating in WIC (1990/1996)	43,277	71,613	65.5%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price School Meals (1992/1996)	192,171	249,611	29.9%
Department of Juvenile Justice Intake Cases (1990/1996)	38,704	58,021	49.9%

Family Environment (1990)

CHILDREN UNDER 18:	Number	Percent
With Sole/Both Parent(s) Working	777,014	70.1%
With Mothers in the Labor Force	452,318	73.5%
Living in Single Parent Families	242,132	22.9%
Living in Two-Parent Families	784,129	63.8%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ High School Grad. or Higher		78.4%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ College Degree or Higher		26.5%

State Population (1994)

	Number	Percent
Total State Population *	5,001,909	
Minority Population under age 20 (% of Population under 20)	530,122	38.4%
All Persons under age 20 (% of Total Population)	1,379,770	27.6%
Ages 0 - 4	378,671	
Ages 5 - 9	361,386	
Ages 10 - 14	338,142	
Ages 15 - 19	301,571	

*1994 U.S. Bureau of the Census

Family Economics (1990)

	Number	Percent
Median Family Income (1989)	$45,034	
Average Income of Married-Couple (1989)	$60,908	
Average Income of Female-Headed Family (1989)	$21,292	
% Median Income Spent on Child Care (1996) (based on family of 4 - a couple & 2 children ages 1-2 & 3-5)	N.A.	
Weekly Cost of Family Day Care (child 0-2) (1996)	$98.29	
% of Idle Teens (ages 16-19)* (1989)		6.4%

* Teens who are not in school, not working and not looking for work

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Allegany County Factsheet

COUNTY SEAT: CUMBERLAND

14 Benchmarks for county's children

County Rank 13

	Then			Now			Trend	Rank
Economic Well Being	No.	Rate	Base Yr.	No.	Rate	Current Yr.		
Children in Poverty	3,049	15.4%	(1979)	3,851	24.0%	(1989)	worse	23
Paying Child Support Cases	1,489	47.4%	(1993)	1,713	53.0%	(1996)	better	18
Births to Teens	797	15.1%	(1985-90)	651	15.4%	(1991-95)	worse	20
Good Health								
Low Birthweight Infants (weighing less than 5.5 lbs.)	304	5.8%	(1985-90)	251	5.9%	(1991-95)	worse	4
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	48	9.1	(1985-90)	42	9.9	(1991-95)	worse	19
Children Screened for Lead Poisoning	451	8.5%	(1992)	945	17.9%	(1995)	better	2
Safety								
Child Death Rate (ages 1-14, per 100,000 children)	19	37.2	(1988-91)	14	26.1	(1992-95)	better	12
Teen Violent Death Rate (ages 15-19, per 100,000 teens)	14	58.3	(1988-91)	7	32.8	(1992-95)	better	2
Indicated Child Abuse and Neglect Rate (per 1,000 children)	196	12.0	(1990)	193	11.9	(1996)	lower	22
Violence Related Suspension Rate (per 1,000 students)	282	25.6	(1992-93)	257	23.2	(1995-96)	better	3
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (ages 10-17, per 10,000)	18	24.5	(1990)	35	46.5	(1995)	worse	15
Preparing for Adulthood								
Third Grade Reading*		20.4%	(1992)		31.8%	(1996)	better	18
On-Time Graduation Rate		91.0%	(1989-90)		90.5%	(1995-96)	worse	5
High School Program Completion**		29.7%	(1991)		39.0%	(1996)	better	16

* percent of students scoring satisfactory or above in Maryland School Performance Assessment Program test

** percent of students meeting minimal requirements for the University of Maryland System

COUNTY RANK: 1 = best 24 = worst

Children and Family Services/Programs

	Base Year	Most Current Year	% Change County	% Change Maryland
Adults Receiving FIP/TANF (1996)	895			
Children Receiving FIP/TANF (1990/1996)	2,460	2,089	-15.1%	18.2%
Children Enrolled in Medicaid (1990/1996)	3,023	4,795	58.6%	50.9%
Children/Infants Participating in WIC (1990/1996)	1,644	1,754	6.7%	65.5%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price School Meals (1992/1996)	4,719	5,043	6.9%	29.9%
Department of Juvenile Justice Intake Cases (1990/1996)	510	1,095	114.7%	49.9%

Family Environment (1990)

CHILDREN UNDER 18:	Number	Percent
With Sole/Both Parent(s) Working	9,393	59.3%
With Mothers in the Labor Force	5,450	63.5%
Living in Single Parent Families	3,223	19.7%
Living in Two-Parent Families	11,706	71.5%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ High School Grad. or Higher		71.0%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ College Degree or Higher		11.8%

County Population (1994)

	Number	Percent
Total County Population* (% of State Population)	73,867	1.5%
Minority Population under age 20	1,058	5.5%
(% of Population under age 20)		
All persons under age 20	19,143	25.9%
Ages 0 - 4	4,224	
Ages 5 - 9	4,720	
Ages 10 - 14	4,850	
Ages 15 - 19	5,349	

* 1994 U.S. Bureau of the Census

Family Economics (1990)

	Number	Percent
Median Family Income (1989)	$27,609	
Average Income of Married-Couple (1989)	$39,427	
Average Income of Female-Headed Family (1989)	$11,456	
% Median Income Spent on Child Care (1996)		22.1%
(based on family of 4 - a couple & 2 children ages 1-2 & 3-5)		
Weekly Cost of Family Day Care (child 0-2) (1996)	$72.90	
% of Idle Teens (ages 16-19)** (1989)		5.0%

** Teens who are not in school, not working and not looking for work

Anne Arundel County Factsheet

COUNTY SEAT: ANNAPOLIS

14 Benchmarks for county's children

County Rank 7

	Then			Now			Trend	Rank
Economic Well Being			Base Yr.	No.	Rate	Current Yr.		
Children in Poverty	8,426	8.1%	(1979)	5,746	5.6%	(1989)	better	5
Paying Child Support Cases	6,400	45.9%	(1993)	6,207	39.5%	(1996)	worse	23
Births to Teens	3,502	9.1%	(1985-90)	2,493	7.7%	(1991-95)	better	7
Good Health								
Low Birthweight Infants (weighing less than 5.5 lbs.)	2,438	6.3%	(1985-90)	2,117	6.5%	(1991-95)	worse	10
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	353	9.1	(1985-90)	223	6.9	(1991-95)	better	8
Children Screened for Lead Poisoning	3,210	8.0%	(1992)	2,658	7.0%	(1995)	worse	14
Safety								
Child Death Rate (ages 1-14, per 100,000 children)	86	26.1	(1988-91)	102	28.0	(1992-95)	worse	15
Teen Violent Death Rate (ages 15-19, per 100,000 teens)	68	54.5	(1988-91)	46	40.3	(1992-95)	better	4
Indicated Child Abuse and Neglect Rate (per 1,000 children)	532	5.0	(1990)	587	5.2	(1996)	higher	10
Violence Related Suspension Rate (per 1,000 students)	2,971	44.5	(1992-93)	3,304	46.8	(1995-96)	worse	12
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (ages 10-17, per 10,000)	46	10.7	(1990)	125	26.1	(1995)	worse	6
Preparing for Adulthood								
Third Grade Reading*		33.7%	(1992)		44.3%	(1996)	better	8
On-Time Graduation Rate		71.6%	(1989-90)		68.6%	(1995-96)	worse	21
High School Program Completion**		42.0%	(1991)		51.3%	(1996)	better	7

* percent of students scoring satisfactory or above in Maryland School Performance Assessment Program test

** percent of students meeting minimal requirements for the University of Maryland System

COUNTY RANK: 1 = best 24 = worst

Children and Family Services/Programs

	Base Year	Most Current Year	% Change County	% Change Maryland
Adults Receiving FIP/TANF (1996)	2,192			
Children Receiving FIP/TANF (1990/1996)	5,167	6,129	18.6%	18.2%
Children Enrolled in Medicaid (1990/1996)	6,114	10,642	74.1%	50.9%
Children/Infants Participating in WIC (1990/1996)	2,022	3,895	92.6%	65.5%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price School Meals (1992/1996)	7,850	10,821	37.8%	29.9%
Department of Juvenile Justice Intake Cases (1990/1996)	2,716	4,878	79.6%	49.9%

Family Environment (1990)

CHILDREN UNDER 18:	Number	Percent
With Sole/Both Parent(s) Working	71,910	70.8%
With Mothers in the Labor Force	41,698	73.6%
Living in Single Parent Families	15,668	14.9%
Living in Two-Parent Families	79,141	75.2%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ High School Grad. or Higher		81.1%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ College Degree or Higher		24.6%

County Population (1994)

	Number	Percent
Total County Population* (% of State Population)	456,176	9.1%
Minority Population under age 20	26,350	20.7%
(% of Population Under 20)		
All persons under age 20	127,265	27.9%
Ages 0 - 4	33,851	
Ages 5 - 9	33,143	
Ages 10 - 14	31,249	
Ages 15 - 19	29,022	

* 1994 U.S. Bureau of the Census

Family Economics (1990)

	Number	Percent
Median Family Income (1989)	$49,706	
Average Income of Married-Couple (1989)	$60,607	
Average Income of Female-Headed Family (1989)	$24,668	
% Median Income Spent on Child Care (1996)		18.0%
(based on family of 4 - a couple & 2 children ages 1-2 & 3-5)		
Weekly Cost of Family Day Care (child 0-2) (1996)	$104.24	
% of Idle Teens (ages 16-19)**		5.2%

** Teens who are not in school, not working and not looking for work

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Baltimore City Factsheet

14 Benchmarks for county's children

County Rank 24

	Then			Now			Trend	Rank
Economic Well Being	**No.**	**Rate**	**Base Yr.**	No.	Rate	Current Yr.		
Children in Poverty	67,178	32.5%	(1979)	56,249	32.2%	(1989)	better	24
Paying Child Support Cases	20,663	16.3%	(1993)	19,433	16.2%	(1996)	worse	24
Births to Teens	18,124	22.2%	(1985-90)	12,946	21.3%	(1991-95)	better	24
Good Health								
Low Birthweight Infants (weighing less than 5.5 lbs.)	10,060	12.3%	(1985-90)	8,334	13.7%	(1991-95)	worse	24
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	1,351	16.5	(1985-90)	833	13.7	(1991-95)	better	24
Children Screened for Lead Poisoning	25,503	37.5%	(1992)	38,794	57.1%	(1995)	better	1
Safety								
Child Death Rate (ages 1-14, per 100,000 children)	271	46.4	(1988-91)	304	50.3	(1992-95)	worse	23
Teen Violent Death Rate (ages 15-19, per 100,000 teens)	199	92.9	(1988-91)	235	132.7	(1992-95)	worse	24
Indicated Child Abuse and Neglect Rate (per 1,000 children)	3,732	20.7	(1990)	3,425	19.2	(1996)	lower	24
Violence Related Suspension Rate (per 1,000 students)	5,953	56.3	(1992-93)	2463	23.5	(1995-96)	better	4
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (ages 10-17, per 10,000)	1,082	155.5	(1990)	1,219	173.5	(1995)	worse	24
Preparing for Adulthood								
Third Grade Reading*		11.7%	(1992)		11.2%	(1996)	worse	24
On-Time Graduation Rate		38.4%	(1989-90)		41.0%	(1995-96)	better	24
High School Program Completion**		31.5%	(1991)		33.7%	(1996)	better	22

* percent of students scoring satisfactory or above in Maryland School Performance Assessment Program test

** percent of students meeting minimal requirements for the University of Maryland System

COUNTY RANK: 1 = best 24 = worst

Children and Family Services/Programs

	Base Year	Most Current Year	% Change County	% Change Maryland
Adults Receiving FIP/TANF (1996)	28,313			
Children Receiving FIP/TANF (1990/1996)	68,779	69,076	.4%	18.2%
Children Enrolled in Medicaid (1990/1996)	78,301	88,534	13.1%	50.9%
Children/Infants Participating in WIC (1990/1996)	13,107	19,807	51.1%	65.5%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price School Meals (1992/1996)	73,880	77,076	4.3%	29.9%
Department of Juvenile Justice Intake Cases (1990/1996)	9,776	16,336	67.1%	49.9%

Family Environment (1990)

CHILDREN UNDER 18:	Number	Percent
With Sole/Both Parent(s) Working	104,239	63.1%
With Mothers in the Labor Force	59,551	67.2%
Living in Single Parent Families	73,790	41.0%
Living in Two-Parent Families	63,886	35.5%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ High School Grad. or Higher		60.7%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ College Degree or Higher		15.5%

County Population (1994)

	Number	Percent
Total County Population* (% of State Population)	702,979	14.1%
Minority Population under age 20 (% of Population Under 20)	147,587	74.6%
All Persons Under age 20	197,857	28.1%
Ages 0 - 4	55,980	
Ages 5 - 9	51,967	
Ages 10 - 14	46,559	
Ages 14 - 19	43,351	

* 1994 U.S. Bureau of the Census

Family Economics (1990)

	Number	Percent
Median Family Income (1989)	$28,217	
Average Income of Married-Couple (1989)	$47,007	
Average Income of Female-Headed Family (1989)	$14,713	
% Median Income Spent on Child Care (1996) (based on family of 4 - a couple & 2 children ages 1-2 & 3-5)		25.6%
Weekly Cost of Family Day Care (child 0-2) (1996)	$88.49	
% of Idle Teens (ages 16-19)** (1989)		14.8%

** Teens who are not in school, not working and not looking for work

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Baltimore County Factsheet

COUNTY SEAT: TOWSON

14 Benchmarks for county's children

County Rank 10

	Then			Now			Trend	Rank
Economic Well Being	No.	Rate	Base Yr.	No.	Rate	Current Yr.		
Children in Poverty	10,099	6.5%	(1979)	10,100	6.8%	(1989)	worse	10
Paying Child Support Cases	9,135	62.8%	(1993)	9,847	62.1%	(1996)	worse	5
Births to Teens	4,239	7.4%	(1985-90)	3,414	7.2%	(1991-95)	better	6
Good Health								
Low Birthweight Infants (weighing less than 5.5 lbs.)	3,747	6.6%	(1985-90)	3,616	7.7%	(1991-95)	worse	18
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	482	8.5	(1985-90)	354	7.5	(1991-95)	better	11
Children Screened for Lead Poisoning	7,600	13.5%	(1992)	1,200	2.1%	(1995)	worse	24
Safety								
Child Death Rate (ages 1-14, per 100,000 children)	111	23.9	(1988-91)	117	21.7	(1992-95)	better	6
Teen Violent Death Rate (ages 15-19, per 100,000 teens)	88	51.3	(1988-91)	65	40.9	(1992-95)	better	6
Indicated Child Abuse and Neglect Rate (per 1,000 children)	829	5.5	(1990)	833	5.0	(1996)	lower	9
Violence Related Suspension Rate (per 1,000 students)	1,173	12.9	(1992-93)	3,595	36.5	(1995-96)	worse	10
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (ages 10-17, per 10,000)	466	77.3	(1990)	707	100.5	(1995)	worse	20
Preparing for Adulthood								
Third Grade Reading*		30.7%	(1992)		36.5%	(1996)	better	15
On-Time Graduation Rate		78.0%	(1989-90)		84.0%	(1995-96)	better	8
High School Program Completion**		42.8%	(1991)		46.4%	(1996)	better	10

* percent of students scoring satisfactory or above in Maryland School Performance Assessment Program test

** percent of students meeting minimal requirements for the University of Maryland System

COUNTY RANK: 1 = best 24 = worst

Children and Family Services/Programs

	Base Year	Most Current Year	% Change County	% Change Maryland
Adults Receiving FIP/TANF (1996)	4,969			
Children Receiving FIP/TANF (1990/1996)	8,497	11,768	38.5%	18.2%
Children Enrolled in Medicaid (1990/1996)	9,760	18,841	93.0%	50.9%
Children/Infants Participating in WIC (1990/1996)	3,836	7,046	83.7%	65.5%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price School Meals (1992/1996)	13,232	25,483	92.6%	29.9%
Department of Juvenile Justice Intake Cases (1990/1996)	5,405	8,596	59%	49.9%

Family Environment (1990)

CHILDREN UNDER 18:	Number	Percent
With Sole/Both Parent(s) Working	99,536	68.7%
With Mothers in the Labor Force	59,839	71.8%
Living in Single Parent Families	27,131	17.9%
Living in Two-Parent Families	109,894	72.7%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ High School Grad. or Higher		78.4%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ College Degree or Higher		25.0%

County Population (1994)

	Number	Percent
Total County Population* (% of State Population)	711,787	14.2%
Minority Population under age 20	42,023	23.9%
(% of Population Under 20)		
All Persons Under age 20 (% of County Population)	175,597	24.7%
Ages 0 - 4	48,469	
Ages 5 - 9	45,934	
Ages 10 - 14	42,785	
Ages 15 - 19	38,409	

* 1994 U.S. Bureau of Census

Family Economics (1990)

	Number	Percent
Median Family Income (1989)	$44,502	
Average Income of Married-Couple (1989)	$61,379	
Average Income of Female-Headed Family (1989)	$22,844	
% Median Income Spent on Child Care (1996)		20.3%
(based on family of 4 - a couple & 2 children ages 1-2 & 3-5)		
Weekly Cost of Family Day Care (child 0-2) (1996)	$102.44	
% of Idle Teens (ages 16-19)** (1989)		5.1%

** Teens who are not in school, not working and not looking for work

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Calvert County Factsheet

COUNTY SEAT: PRINCE FREDERICK
14 Benchmarks for county's children

County Rank 6

	Then			Now			Trend	Rank
Economic Well Being	No.	Rate	Base Yr.	No.	Rate	Current Yr.		
Children in Poverty	1,416	12.6%	(1979)	934	6.5%	(1989)	better	7
Paying Child Support Cases	1,111	51.0%	(1993)	1,132	56.9%	(1996)	better	14
Births to Teens	488	10.8%	(1985-90)	349	7.9%	(1991-95)	better	8
Good Health								
Low Birthweight Infants (weighing less than 5.5 lbs.)	257	5.7%	(1985-90)	257	5.8%	(1991-95)	worse	3
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	28	6.2	(1985-90)	25	5.7	(1991-95)	better	3
Children Screened for Lead Poisoning	86	1.8%	(1992)	205	4.2%	(1995)	better	21
Safety								
Child Death Rate (ages 1-14, per 100,000 children)	7	15.4	(1988-91)	11	19.2	(1992-95)	worse	3
Teen Violent Death Rate (ages 15-19, per 100,000 teens)	13	85.3	(1988-91)	9	56.9	(1992-95)	better	10
Indicated Child Abuse and Neglect Rate (per 1,000 children)	111	7.5	(1990)	90	4.8	(1996)	lower	7
Violence Related Suspension Rate (per 1,000 students)	208	18.2	(1992-93)	436	32.9	(1995-96)	worse	9
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (ages 10-17, per 10,000)	12	19.3	(1990)	44	52.3	(1995)	worse	18
Preparing for Adulthood								
Third Grade Reading*		33.4%	(1992)		40.0%	(1996)	better	12
On-Time Graduation Rate		95.0%	(1989-90)		90.0%	(1995-96)	worse	6
High School Program Completion**		47.2%	(1991)		54.2%	(1996)	better	6

* percent of students scoring satisfactory or above in Maryland School Performance Assessment Program test

** percent of students meeting minimal requirements for the University of Maryland System

COUNTY RANK: 1 = best 24 = worst

Children and Family Services/Programs

	Base Year	Most Current Year	% Change County	% Change Maryland
Adults Receiving FIP/TANF (1996)	436			
Children Receiving FIP/TANF (1990/1996)	799	962	20.4%	18.2%
Children Enrolled in Medicaid (1990/1996)	1,088	1,883	73.1%	50.9%
Children/Infants Participating in WIC (1990/1996)	486	668	37.4%	65.5%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price School Meals (1992/1996)	1,419	1,917	35.1%	29.9%
Department of Juvenile Justice Intake Cases (1990/1996)	453	903	99.3%	49.9%

Family Environment (1990)

CHILDREN UNDER 18:	Number	Percent
With Sole/Both Parent(s) Working	10,090	71.3%
With Mothers in the Labor Force	5,646	74.0%
Living in Single Parent Families	1,803	12.3%
Living in Two-Parent Families	11,140	76.3%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ High School Grad. or Higher		79.3%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ College Degree or Higher		17.6%

County Population (1994)

	Number	Percent
Total County Population*(% of State Population)	62,179	1.2%
Minority Population under age 20 (% of Population Under 20)	4,072	21.0%
All Persons under age 20 (% of County Population)	19,350	31.1%
Ages 0 - 4	4,918	
Ages 5 - 9	5,333	
Ages 10 - 14	5,185	
Ages 15 - 19	3,914	

* 1994 U.S. Bureau of the Census

Family Economics (1990)

	Number	Percent
Median Family Income (1989)	$50,845	
Average Income of Married-Couple (1989)	$57,321	
Average Income of Female-Headed Family (1989)	$25,899	
% Median Income Spent on Child Care (1996) (based on family of 4 - a couple & 2 children ages 1-2 & 3-5)		16.1%
Weekly Cost of Family Day Care (child 0-2) (1996)	$95.32	
% of Idle Teens (ages 16-19)** (1989)		3.7%

** Teens who are not in school, not working and not looking for work

Caroline County Factsheet

COUNTY SEAT: DENTON
14 Benchmarks for county's children

County Rank 20

	Then			Now			Trend	Rank
Economic Well Being			Base Yr.	No.	Rate	Current Yr.		
Children in Poverty	921	14.5%	(1979)	953	13.9%	(1989)	better	17
Paying Child Support Cases	893	53.7%	(1993)	889	59.2%	(1996)	better	9
Births to Teens	398	17.6%	(1985-90)	297	15.2%	(1991-95)	better	19
Good Health								
Low Birthweight Infants (weighing less than 5.5 lbs.)	175	7.7%	(1985-90)	163	8.4%	(1991-95)	worse	20
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	27	11.9	(1985-90)	24	12.3	(1991-95)	worse	22
Children Screened for Lead Poisoning	279	11.0%	(1992)	134	5.3%	(1995)	worse	17
Safety								
Child Death Rate (ages 1-14, per 100,000 children)	12	55.3	(1988-91)	15	61.0	(1992-95)	worse	24
Teen Violent Death Rate (ages 15-19, per 100,000 teens)	9	120.0	(1988-91)	2	27.6	(1992-95)	better	1
Indicated Child Abuse and Neglect Rate (per 1,000 children)	40	5.6	(1990)	70	9.2	(1996)	higher	19
Violence Related Suspension Rate (per 1,000 students)	315	63.7	(1992-93)	355	66.6	(1995-96)	worse	19
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (ages 10-17, per 10,000)	2	6.8	(1990)	11	32.7	(1995)	worse	7
Preparing for Adulthood								
Third Grade Reading*		29.2%	(1992)		37.6%	(1996)	better	13
On-Time Graduation Rate		66.5%	(1989-90)		67.6%	(1995-96)	better	22
High School Program Completion**		26.3%	(1991)		38.2%	(1996)	better	19

* percent of students scoring satisfactory or above in Maryland School Performance Assessment Program test
** percent of students meeting minimal requirements for the University of Maryland System
COUNTY RANK: 1 = best 24 = worst

Children and Family Services/Programs

	Base Year	Most Current Year	% Change County	% Change Maryland
Adults Receiving FIP/TANF (1996)	286			
Children Receiving FIP/TANF (1990/1996)	551	704	27.8%	18.2%
Children Enrolled in Medicaid (1990/1996)	672	1,487	121.3%	50.9%
Children/Infants Participating in WIC (1990/1996)	498	716	43.8%	65.5%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price School Meals (1992/1996)	1,635	2,213	35.4%	29.9%
Department of Juvenile Justice Intake Cases (1990/1996)	213	450	111.3%	49.9%

Family Environment (1990)

CHILDREN UNDER 18:	Number	Percent
With Sole/Both Parent(s) Working	4,866	73.3%
With Mothers in the Labor Force	2,779	76.8%
Living in Single Parent Families	4,742	19.2%
Living in Two-Parent Families	1,366	66.8%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ High School Grad. or Higher		66.9%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ College Degree or Higher		10.9%

County Population (1994)

	Number	Percent
Total County Population* (% of State Population)	28,720	0.6%
Minority Population under age 20 (% of Population Under 20)	1,957	23.5%
All Persons under age 20 (% of County Population)	8,323	29.0%
Ages 0 - 4	2,184	
Ages 5 - 9	2,258	
Ages 10 - 14	2,176	
Ages 15 - 19	1,705	

* 1994 U.S. Bureau of the Census

Family Economics (1990)

	Number	Percent
Median Family Income (1989)	$32,093	
Average Income of Married-Couple (1989)	$41,308	
Average Income of Female-Headed Family (1989)	$13,504	
% Median Income Spent on Child Care (1996) (based on family of 4 - a couple & 2 children ages 1-2 & 3-5)		17.9%
Weekly Cost of Family Day Care (child 0-2) (1996)	$60.78	
% of Idle Teens (ages 16-19)** (1989)		15.4%

**Teens who are not in school, not working and not looking for work

Carroll County Factsheet

COUNTY SEAT: WESTMINSTER
14 Benchmarks for county's children

County Rank 3

	Then			Now			Trend	Rank
Economic Well Being	No.	Rate	Base Yr.	No.	Rate	Current Yr.		
Children in Poverty	1,517	5.4%	(1979)	1,291	4.0%	(1989)	better	2
Paying Child Support Cases	1,350	53.5%	(1993)	1,550	58.8%	(1996)	better	10
Births to Teens	775	7.0%	(1985-90)	560	6.0%	(1991-95)	better	3
Good Health								
Low Birthweight Infants (weighing less than 5.5 lbs.)	594	5.4%	(1985-90)	494	5.3%	(1991-95)	better	1
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	89	8.1	(1985-90)	63	6.8	(1991-95)	better	6
Children Screened for Lead Poisoning	549	4.7%	(1992)	674	5.8%	(1995)	better	16
Safety								
Child Death Rate (ages 1-14, per 100,000 children)	27	26.7	(1988-91)	27	23.3	(1992-95)	better	9
Teen Violent Death Rate (ages 15-19, per 100,000 teens)	28	77.5	(1988-91)	20	58.4	(1992-95)	better	12
Indicated Child Abuse and Neglect Rate (per 1,000 children)	194	5.9	(1990)	113	3.1	(1996)	lower	2
Violence Related Suspension Rate (per 1,000 students)	560	24.4	(1992-93)	728	28.9	(1995-96)	worse	7
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (ages 10-17, per 10,000)	18	13.4	(1990)	18	11.1	(1995)	better	1
Preparing for Adulthood								
Third Grade Reading*		32.0%	(1992)		46.7%	(1996)	better	5
On-Time Graduation Rate		85.8%	(1989-90)		86.5%	(1995-96)	better	7
High School Program Completion**		28.6%	(1991)		51.2%	(1996)	better	8

* percent of students scoring satisfactory or above in Maryland School Performance Assessment Program test

** percent of students meeting minimal requirements for the University of Maryland System

COUNTY RANK: 1 = best 24 = worst

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Children and Family Services/Programs

	Base Year	Most Current Year	% Change County	% Change Maryland
Adults Receiving FIP/TANF (1996)	478			
Children Receiving FIP/TANF (1990/1996)	814	1,079	32.6%	18.2%
Children Enrolled in Medicaid (1990/1996)	1,156	2,634	127.9%	50.9%
Children/Infants Participating in WIC (1990/1996)	653	1,041	59.4%	65.5%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price School Meals (1992/1996)	1,889	2,240	18.6%	29.9%
Department of Juvenile Justice Intake Cases (1990/1996)	747	1,221	63.5%	49.9%

Family Environment (1990)

CHILDREN UNDER 18:	Number	Percent
With Sole/Both Parent(s) Working	21,861	68.8%
With Mothers in the Labor Force	12,520	71.7%
Living in Single Parent Families	3,557	10.9%
Living in Two-Parent Families	26,964	82.3%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ High School Grad. or Higher		78.5%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ College Degree or Higher		19.6%

County Population (1994)

	Number	Percent
Total County Population* (% of State Population)	136,446	2.7%
Minority Population under age 20 (% of Population under 20)	1,969	4.9%
All Persons under age 20 (% of County Population)	40,180	29.4%
Ages 0 - 4	10,399	
Ages 5 - 9	10,989	
Ages 10 - 14	10,229	
Ages 15 - 19	8,563	

* 1994 U.S. Bureau of Census

Family Economics (1990)

	Number	Percent
Median Family Income (1989)	$46,491	
Average Income of Married-Couple (1989)	$54,544	
Average Income of Female-Headed Family (1989)	$21,771	
% Median Income Spent on Child Care (1996) (based on family of 4 - a couple & 2 children ages 1-2 & 3-5)		17.0%
Weekly Cost of Family Day Care (child 0-2) (1996)	$95.38	
% of Idle Teens (ages 16-19)** (1989)		3.9%

** Teens who are not in school, not working and not looking for work

Cecil County Factsheet

COUNTY SEAT: ELKTON

14 Benchmarks for county's children

County Rank 17

	Then			Now			Trend	Rank
Economic Well Being	**No.**	**Rate**	**Base Yr.**	**No.**	**Rate**	**Current Yr.**		
Children in Poverty	1,811	9.7%	(1979)	1,685	9.1%	(1989)	better	12
Paying Child Support Cases	2,071	64.0%	(1993)	2,202	65.1%	(1996)	better	3
Births to Teens	966	15.0%	(1985-90)	699	12.4%	(1991-95)	better	16
Good Health								
Low Birthweight Infants (weighing less than 5.5 lbs.)	411	6.4%	(1985-90)	368	6.5%	(1991-95)	worse	10
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	51	7.9	(1985-90)	44	7.8	(1991-95)	better	13
Children Screened for Lead Poisoning	320	4.8%	(1992)	215	3.2%	(1995)	worse	23
Safety								
Child Death Rate (ages 1-14, per 100,000 children)	18	29.7	(1988-91)	22	31.9	(1992-95)	worse	18
Teen Violent Death Rate (ages 15-19, per 100,000 teens)	15	65.6	(1988-91)	14	65.2	(1992-95)	better	17
Indicated Child Abuse and Neglect Rate (per 1,000 children)	158	8.1	(1990)	124	5.8	(1996)	lower	11
Violence Related Suspension Rate (per 1,000 students)	778	58.5	(1992-93)	923	64.6	(1995-96)	worse	17
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (ages 10-17, per 10,000)	38	45.0	(1990)	40	42.6	(1995)	better	13
Preparing for Adulthood								
Third Grade Reading*		27.4%	(1992)		37.3%	(1996)	better	14
On-Time Graduation Rate		77.6%	(1989-90)		74.8%	(1995-96)	worse	17
High School Program Completion**		33.0%	(1991)		37.7%	(1996)	better	20

* percent of students scoring satisfactory or above in Maryland School Performance Assessment Program test

** percent of students meeting minimal requirements for the University of Maryland System

COUNTY RANK: 1 = best 24 = worst

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Children and Family Services/Programs

	Base Year	Most Current Year	% Change County	% Change Maryland
Adults Receiving FIP/TANF (1996)	684			
Children Receiving FIP/TANF (1990/1996)	1,238	1,506	21.6%	18.2%
Children Enrolled in Medicaid (1990/1996)	1,681	3,221	91.6%	50.9%
Children/Infants Participating in WIC (1990/1996)	738	1,138	54.2%	65.5%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price School Meals (1992/1996)	2,345	3,136	33.7%	29.9%
Department of Juvenile Justice Intake Cases (1990/1996)	748	1,072	43.3%	49.9%

Family Environment (1990)

CHILDREN UNDER 18:	Number	Percent
With Sole/Both Parent(s) Working	12,275	67.4%
With Mothers in the Labor Force	6,792	70.9%
Living in Single Parent Families	3,161	16.2%
Living in Two-Parent Families	14,310	73.4%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ High School Grad. or Higher		72.2%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ College Degree or Higher		12.1%

County Population (1994)

	Number	Percent
Total County Population* (% of State Population)	77,038	1.5%
Minority Population under age 20 (% of Population under 20)	2,040	8.6%
All Persons under age 20 (% of County Population)	23,585	30.6%
Ages 0 - 4	5,951	
Ages 5 - 9	6,048	
Ages 10 - 14	6,128	
Ages 15 - 19	5,458	

* 1994 U.S. Bureau of the Census

Family Economics (1990)

	Number	Percent
Median Family Income (1989)	$40,420	
Average Income of Married-Couple (1989)	$47,252	
Average Income of Female-Headed Family (1989)	$19,242	
% Median Income Spent on Child Care (1996) (based on family of 4 - a couple & 2 children ages 1-2 & 3-5)		17.1%
Weekly Cost of Family Day Care (child 0-2) (1996)	$81.51	
Unemployment Rate (1994)		8.4%
% of Idle Teens (ages 16-19)** (1989)		6.2%

** Teens who are not in school, not working and not looking for work

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Charles County Factsheet

COUNTY SEAT: LA PLATA
14 Benchmarks for county's children

County Rank 15

	Then			Now			Trend	Rank
Economic Well-Being	No.	Rate	Base Yr.	No.	Rate	Current Yr.		
Children in Poverty	2,630	10.3%	(1979)	1,565	5.4%	(1989)	better	4
Paying Child Support Cases	1,801	48.1%	(1993)	2,133	58.1%	(1996)	better	13
Births to Teens	1,081	11.3%	(1985-90)	825	10.0%	(1991-95)	better	10
Good Health								
Low Birthweight Infants (weighing less than 5.5 lbs.)	651	6.8%	(1985-90)	589	7.1%	(1991-95)	worse	16
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	93	9.7	(1985-90)	62	7.5	(1991-95)	better	11
Children Screened for Lead Poisoning	144	1.4%	(1992)	733	7.0%	(1995)	better	14
Safety								
Child Death Rate (ages 1-14, per 100,000 children)	26	28.0	(1988-91)	24	23.4	(1992-95)	better	10
Teen Violent Death Rate (ages 15-19, per 100,000 teens)	34	102.8	(1988-91)	20	65.0	(1992-95)	better	16
Indicated Child Abuse and Neglect Rate (per 1,000 children)	221	7.4	(1990)	201	6.3	(1996)	lower	12
Violence Related Suspension Rate (per 1,000 students)	994	51.5	(1992-93)	1,344	65.2	(1995-96)	worse	18
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (ages 10-17, per 10,000)	34	27.3	(1990)	53	37.2	(1995)	worse	10
Preparing for Adulthood								
Third Grade Reading*		26.0%	(1992)		31.2%	(1996)	better	20
On-Time Graduation Rate		83.7%	(1989-90)		84.0%	(1995-96)	better	8
High School Program Completion**		37.2%	(1991)		37.0%	(1996)	worse	21

* percent of students scoring satisfactory or above in Maryland School Performance Assessment Program test

** percent of students meeting minimal requirements for the University of Maryland System

COUNTY RANK: 1 = best 24 = worst

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Children and Family Services/Programs

	Base Year	Most Current Year	% Change County	% Change Maryland
Adults Receiving FIP/TANF (1996)	1,238			
Children Receiving FIP/TANF (1990/1996)	1,908	2,790	46.2%	18.2%
Children Enrolled in Medicaid (1990/1996)	2,373	4,398	85.3%	50.9%
Children/Infants Participating in WIC (1990/1996)	1,027	1,503	46.3%	65.5%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price School Meals (1992/1996)	3,290	4,744	44.2%	29.9%
Department of Juvenile Justice Intake Cases (1990/1996)	987	1,353	37.1%	49.9%

Family Environment (1990)

CHILDREN UNDER 18	Number	Percent
With Sole/Both Parent(s) Working	21,158	73.9%
With Mothers in the Labor Force	11,666	77.2%
Living in Single Parent Families	4,788	16.1%
Living in Two-Parent Families	21,889	73.6%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ High School Grad. or Higher		81.0%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ College Degree or Higher		16.2%

County Population (1994)

	Number	Percent
Total County Population* (% of State Population)	109,295	2.2%
Minority Population under age 20	9,692	27.0%
(% of Population under 20)		
All Persons under age 20 (% of County Population)	35,904	32.9%
Ages 0 - 4	9,341	
Ages 5 - 9	9,695	
Ages 10 - 14	9,228	
Ages 15 - 19	7,640	

* 1994 U.S. Bureau of Census

Family Economics (1990)

	Number	Percent
Median Family Income (1989)	$49,724	
Average Income of Married-Couple (1989)	$57,525	
Average Income of Female-Headed Family (1989)	$24,352	
% Median Income Spent on Child Care (1996)		16.8%
(based on family of 4 - a couple & 2 children ages 1-2 & 3-5)		
Weekly Cost of Family Day Care (child 0-2) (1996)	$95.87	
% of Idle Teens (ages 16-19)** (1989)		6.0%

** Teens who are not in school, not working and not looking for work

Dorchester County Factsheet

COUNTY SEAT: CAMBRIDGE
14 Benchmarks for county's children

County Rank 23

	Then			Now			Trend	Rank
Economic Well Being	No.	Rate	Base Yr.	No.	Rate	Current Yr.		
Children in Poverty	1,418	18.3%	(1979)	1,321	19.5%	(1989)	worse	22
Paying Child Support Cases	1,028	46.3%	(1993)	1,027	49.0%	(1996)	better	20
Births to Teens	548	21.7%	(1985-90)	345	18.6%	(1991-95)	better	22
Good Health								
Low Birthweight Infants (weighing less than 5.5 lbs.)	231	9.1%	(1985-90)	165	8.9%	(1991-95)	better	21
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	28	11.1	(1985-90)	15	8.1	(1991-95)	better	15
Children Screened for Lead Poisoning	269	11.1%	(1992)	239	9.8%	(1995)	worse	9
Safety								
Child Death Rate (ages 1-14, per 100,000 children)	13	59.5	(1988-91)	11	46.4	(1992-95)	better	22
Teen Violent Death Rate (ages 15-19, per 100,000 teens)	9	117.4	(1988-91)	4	58.6	(1992-95)	better	13
Indicated Child Abuse and Neglect Rate (per 1,000 children)	54	7.8	(1990)	64	9.0	(1996)	higher	18
Violence Related Suspension Rate (per 1,000 students)	452	93.8	(1992-93)	563	112.8	(1995-96)	worse	23
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (ages 10-17, per 10,000)	31	108	(1990)	43	137.4	(1995)	worse	23
Preparing for Adulthood								
Third Grade Reading*		15.2%	(1992)		40.4%	(1996)	better	10
On-Time Graduation Rate		78.5%	(1989-90)		72.6%	(1995-96)	worse	19
High School Program Completion**		28.2%	(1991)		45.4%	(1996)	better	11

* percent of students scoring satisfactory or above in Maryland School Performance Assessment Program test

** percent of students meeting minimal requirements for the University of Maryland System

COUNTY RANK: 1 = best 24 = worst

Children and Family Services/Programs

	Base Year	Most Current Year	% Change County	% Change Maryland
Adults Receiving FIP/TANF (1996)	429			
Children Receiving FIP/TANF (1990/1996)	1,101	1,073	-2.5%	18.2%
Children Enrolled in Medicaid (1990/1996)	1,300	2,047	57.5%	50.9%
Children/Infants Participating in WIC (1990/1996)	501	658	31.3%	65.5%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price School Meals (1992/1996)	1,955	2,300	17.6%	29.9%
Department of Juvenile Justice Intake Cases (1990/1996)	354	508	43.5%	49.9%

Family Environment (1990)

CHILDREN UNDER 18	Number	Percent
With Sole/Both Parent(s) Working	4,666	72.6%
With Mothers in the Labor Force	2,813	76.5%
Living in Single Parent Families	1,927	27.9%
Living in Two-Parent Families	3,877	56.1%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ High School Grad. or Higher		64.7%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ College Degree or Higher		10.9%

County Population (1994)

	Number	Percent
Total County Population* (% of State Population)	30,423	0.6%
Minority Population under age 20 (% of Population under 20)	3,228	41.3%
All Persons under age 20 (% of County Population)	7,820	25.7%
Ages 0 - 4	2,038	
Ages 5 - 9	2,083	
Ages 10 - 14	2,022	
Ages 15 - 19	1,677	

* 1994 U.S. Bureau of Census

Family Economics (1990)

	Number	Percent
Median Family Income (1989)	$30,004	
Average Income of Married-Couple (1989)	$43,613	
Average Income of Female-Headed Family (1989)	$13,656	
% Median Income Spent on Child Care (1996) (based on family of 4 - a couple & 2 children ages 1-2 & 3-5)		21.0%
Weekly Cost of Family Day Care (child 0-2) (1996)	$61.88	
% of Idle Teens (ages 16-19)** (1989)		12.3%

** Teens who are not in school, not working and not looking for work

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Frederick County Factsheet

COUNTY SEAT: FREDERICK
14 Benchmarks for county's children

County Rank 4

	Then			Now			Trend	Rank
Economic Well Being			Base Yr.	No.	Rate	Current Yr.		
Children in Poverty	2,274	6.7%	(1979)	2,168	5.6%	(1989)	better	5
Paying Child Support Cases	1,726	49.6%	(1993)	2,239	60.8%	(1996)	better	6
Births to Teens	1,150	8.6%	(1985-90)	909	7.1%	(1991-95)	better	4
Good Health								
Low Birthweight Infants (weighing less than 5.5 lbs.)	739	5.5%	(1985-90)	811	6.3%	(1991-95)	worse	7
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	103	7.7	(1985-90)	80	6.2	(1991-95)	better	4
Children Screened for Lead Poisoning	508	3.6%	(1992)	763	5.3%	(1995)	better	17
Safety								
Child Death Rate (ages 1-14, per 100,000 children)	35	28.3	(1988-91)	31	21.1	(1992-95)	better	4
Teen Violent Death Rate (ages 15-19, per 100,000 teens)	24	54.0	(1988-91)	18	41.3	(1992-95)	better	7
Indicated Child Abuse and Neglect Rate (per 1,000 children)	149	3.7	(1990)	221	4.8	(1996)	higher	7
Violence Related Suspension Rate (per 1,000 students)	1,150	39.8	(1992-93)	1,493	46.4	(1995-96)	worse	11
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (ages 10-17, per 10,000)	74	45.7	(1990)	94	47.1	(1995)	worse	16
Preparing for Adulthood								
Third Grade Reading*		44.4%	(1992)		48.7%	(1996)	better	2
On-Time Graduation Rate		87.3%	(1989-90)		95.5%	(1995-96)	better	1
High School Program Completion**		49.6%	(1991)		57.3%	(1996)	better	5

* percent of students scoring satisfactory or above in Maryland School Performance Assessment Program test

** percent of students meeting minimal requirements for the University of Maryland System

COUNTY RANK: 1 = best 24 = worst

Children and Family Services/Programs

	Base Year	Most Current Year	% Change County	% Change Maryland
Adults Receiving FIP/TANF (1996)	823			
Children Receiving FIP/TANF (1990/1996)	1,282	1,907	48.8%	18.2%
Children Enrolled in Medicaid (1990/1996)	1,611	4,131	156.4%	50.9%
Children/Infants Participating in WIC (1990/1996)	1,224	2,304	88.2%	65.5%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price School Meals (1992/1996)	3,630	4,643	27.9%	29.9%
Department of Juvenile Justice Intake Cases (1990/1996)	1,210	1,811	49.7%	49.9%

Family Environment (1990)

CHILDREN UNDER 18:	Number	Percent
With Sole/Both Parent(s) Working	26,841	70.1%
With Mothers in the Labor Force	15,106	72.7%
Living in Single Parent Families	5,104	12.8%
Living in Two-Parent Families	31,790	80.0%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ High School Grad. or Higher		80.4%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ College Degree or Higher		22.0%

County Population (1990)

	Number	Percent
Total County Population* (% of State Population)	171,276	3.4%
Minority Population under age 20	5,253	10.3%
(% of Population under 20)		
All Persons under age 20 (% of County Population)	50,796	29.7%
Ages 0 - 4	13,420	
Ages 5 - 9	13,707	
Ages 10 - 14	12,797	
Ages 15 - 19	10,872	

* 1994 U.S. Bureau of Census

Family Economics (1990)

	Number	Percent
Median Family Income (1989)	$45,847	
Average Income of Married-Couple (1989)	$53,984	
Average Income of Female-Headed Family (1989)	$20,449	
% Median Income Spent on Child Care (1996)		18.4%
(based on family of 4 - a couple & 2 children ages 1-2 & 3-5)		
Weekly Cost of Family Day Care (child 0-2) (1996)	$93.81	
% of Idle Teens (ages 16-19)** (1989)		3.8%

** Teens who are not in school, not working and not looking for work

Garrett County Factsheet

COUNTY SEAT: OAKLAND

14 Benchmarks for county's children

County Rank **11**

	Then			Now			Trend	Rank
Economic Well Being	No.	Rate	Base Yr.	No.	Rate	Current Yr.		
Children in Poverty	1,363	17.1%	(1979)	1,401	18.9%	(1989)	worse	21
Paying Child Support Cases	423	61.2%	(1993)	454	64.0%	(1996)	better	4
Births to Teens	341	14.9%	(1985-90)	237	12.1%	(1991-95)	better	15
Good Health								
Low Birthweight Infants (weighing less than 5.5 lbs.)	127	5.6%	(1985-90)	124	6.3%	(1991-95)	worse	7
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	23	10.1	(1985-90)	14	7.1	(1991-95)	better	9
Children Screened for Lead Poisoning	45	1.9%	(1992)	252	10.5%	(1995)	better	7
Safety								
Child Death Rate (ages 1-14, per 100,000 children)	11	47.0	(1988-91)	9	36.2	(1992-95)	better	20
Teen Violent Death Rate (ages 15-19, per 100,000 teens)	2	22.7	(1988-91)	6	73.0	(1992-95)	worse	19
Indicated Child Abuse and Neglect Rate (per 1,000 children)	60	7.9	(1990)	35	4.6	(1996)	lower	4
Violence Related Suspension Rate (per 1,000 students)	174	34.7	(1992-93)	144	28.4	(1995-96)	better	5
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (ages 10-17, per 10,000)	8	23.1	(1990)	5	14.0	(1995)	better	4
Preparing for Adulthood								
Third Grade Reading*		35.4%	(1992)		31.8%	(1996)	worse	18
On-Time Graduation Rate		92.4%	(1989-90)		90.9%	(1995-96)	worse	3
High School Program Completion**		28.5%	(1991)		25.1%	(1996)	worse	23

* percent of students scoring satisfactory or above in Maryland School Performance Assessment Program test

** percent of students meeting minimal requirements for the University of Maryland System

COUNTY RANK: 1 = best 24 = worst

Children and Family Services/Programs

	Base Year	Most Current Year	% Change County	% Change Maryland
Adults Receiving FIP/TANF (1996)	247			
Children Receiving FIP/TANF (1990/1996)	690	536	-22.3%	18.2%
Children Enrolled in Medicaid (1990/1996)	1,020	2,011	97.2%	50.9%
Children/Infants Participating in WIC (1990/1996)	733	851	16.1%	65.5%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price School Meals (1992/1996)	2,048	2,252	10.0%	29.9%
Department of Juvenile Justice Intake Cases (1990/1996)	226	215	-4.9%	49.9%

Family Environment (1990)

CHILDREN UNDER 18:	Number	Percent
With Sole/Both Parent(s) Working	4,112	56.4%
With Mothers in the Labor Force	2,279	61.1%
Living in Single Parent Families	986	12.9%
Living in Two-Parent Families	6,003	78.8%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ High School Grad. or Higher		68.4%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ College Degree or Higher		10.9%

County Population (1994)

	Number	Percent
Total County Population (% of State Population)	29,372	0.6%
Minority Population under age 20	194	2.2%
(% of Population under age 20)		
All Persons under age 20 (% of County Population)	8,850	30.1%
Ages 0 - 4	1,967	
Ages 5 - 9	2,391	
Ages 10 - 14	2,406	
Ages 15 - 19	2,086	

* 1994 U.S. Bureau of the Census

Family Economics (1990)

	Number	Percent
Median Family Income (1989)	$26,365	
Average Income of Married-Couple (1989)	$34,132	
Average Income of Female-Headed Family (1989)	$12,776	
% Median Income Spent on Child Care (1996)		24.2%
(based on family of 4 - a couple & 2 children ages 1-2 & 3-5)		
Weekly Cost of Family Day Care (child 0-2) (1996)	$71.79	
% of Idle Teens (ages 16-19)** (1989)		8.6%

** Teens who are not in school, not working and not looking for work

Harford County Factsheet

COUNTY SEAT: BEL AIR
14 Benchmarks for county's children

County Rank 5

	Then			Now			Trend	Rank
Economic Well Being			Base Yr.	No.	Rate	Current Yr.		
Children in Poverty	4,028	9.0%	(1979)	3,154	6.6%	(1989)	better	8
Paying Child Support Cases	2,247	47.5%	(1993)	2,202	53.4%	(1996)	better	17
Births to Teens	1,377	8.8%	(1985-90)	1,043	7.1%	(1991-95)	better	4
Good Health								
Low Birthweight Infants (weighing less than 5.5 lbs.)	929	6.0%	(1985-90)	983	6.7%	(1991-95)	worse	14
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	146	9.4	(1985-90)	93	6.3	(1991-95)	better	5
Children Screened for Lead Poisoning	985	5.6%	(1992)	1,853	10.5%	(1995)	better	7
Safety								
Child Death Rate (ages 1-14, per 100,000 children)	30	20.0	(1988-91)	49	27.9	(1992-95)	worse	14
Teen Violent Death Rate (ages 15-19, per 100,000 teens)	28	51.9	(1988-91)	33	63.4	(1992-95)	worse	15
Indicated Child Abuse and Neglect Rate (per 1,000 children)	413	8.4	(1990)	262	4.7	(1996)	lower	6
Violence Related Suspension Rate (per 1,000 students)	829	25.1	(1992-93)	1,122	31.0	(1995-96)	worse	8
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (ages 10-17, per 10,000)	46	23.5	(1990)	27	11.1	(1995)	better	1
Preparing for Adulthood								
Third Grade Reading*		37.2%	(1992)		46.7%	(1996)	better	5
On-Time Graduation Rate		76.7%	(1989-90)		75.3%	(1995-96)	worse	15
High School Program Completion**		24.4%	(1991)		61.4%	(1996)	better	3

* percent of students scoring satisfactory or above in Maryland School Performance Assessment Program test

** percent of students meeting minimal requirements for the University of Maryland System

COUNTY RANK: 1 = best 24 = worst

Children and Family Services/Programs

	Base Year	Most Current Year	% Change County	% Change Maryland
Adults Receiving FIP/TANF (1996)	1,259			
Children Receiving FIP/TANF (1990/1996)	1,837	2,927	59.3%	8.2%
Children Enrolled in Medicaid (1990/1996)	2,501	5,491	119.6%	30.9%
Children/Infants Participating in WIC (1990/1996)	1,487	2,114	42.2%	65.5%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price School Meals (1992/1996)	4,853	6,385	31.6%	29.9%
Department of Juvenile Justice Intake Cases (1990/1996)	1,060	1,274	20.2%	49.9%

Family Environment (1990)

CHILDREN UNDER 18:	Number	Percent
With Sole/Both Parent(s) Working	31,383	66.2%
With Mothers in the Labor Force	18,164	70.1%
Living in Single Parent Families	6,630	13.6%
Living in Two-Parent Families	38,779	79.5%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ High School Grad. or Higher		81.6
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ College Degree or Higher		21.5%

County Population (1994)

	Number	Percent
Total County Population* (% of State Population)	201,988	4.0%
Minority Population under age 20 (% of Population under 20)	9,984	16.4%
All Persons under age 20 (% of County Population)	60,737	30.1%
Ages 0 - 4	16,287	
Ages 5 - 9	16,428	
Ages 10 - 14	15,096	
Ages 15 - 19	12,926	

* 1994 U.S. Bureau of the Censuse

Family Economics (1990)

	Number	Percent
Median Family Income (1989)	$45,923	
Average Income of Married-Couple (1989)	$54,360	
Average Income of Female-Headed Family (1989)	$18,639	
% Median Income Spent on Child Care (1996) (based on family of 4 - a couple & 2 children ages 1-2 & 3-5)		18.8%
Weekly Cost of Family Day Care (child 0-2) (1996)	$98.73	
% of Idle Teens (ages 16-19)** (1989)		3.5%

** Teens who are not in school, not working and not looking for work

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Howard County Factsheet

COUNTY SEAT: ELLICOTT CITY

11 Benchmarks for county's children

County Rank: 1

	Then			Now			Trend	Rank
Economic Well Being	**No.**	**Rate**	**Base Yr.**	**No.**	**Rate**	**Current Yr.**		
Children in Poverty	1,424	4.0%	(1979)	1,762	3.7%	(1989)	better	1
Paying Child Support Cases	1,197	46.8%	(1993)	1,570	55.7%	(1996)	better	15
Births to Teens	654	4.0%	(1985-90)	546	3.3%	(1991-95)	better	1
Good Health								
Low Birthweight Infants (weighing less than 5.5 lbs.)	914	5.6%	(1985-90)	900	5.4%	(1991-95)	better	2
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	100	6.1	(1985-90)	62	3.7	(1991-95)	better	2
Children Screened for Lead Poisoning	450	2.5%	(1992)	824	4.5%	(1995)	better	20
Safety								
Child Death Rate (ages 1-14, per 100,000 children)	27	18.1	(1988-91)	39	21.1	(1992-95)	worse	4
Teen Violent Death Rate (ages 15-19, per 100,000 teens)	19	39.8	(1988-91)	19	40.8	(1992-95)	worse	5
Indicated Child Abuse and Neglect Rate (per 1,000 children)	212	4.3	(1990)	272	4.6	(1996)	higher	4
Violence Related Suspension Rate (per 1,000 students)	642	19.5	(1992-93)	1,074	28.8	(1995-96)	worse	6
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (ages 10-17, per 10,000)	24	12.4	(1990)	108	44.0	(1995)	worse	14
Preparing for Adulthood								
Third Grade Reading*		38.8%	(1992)		53.3%	(1996)	better	1
On-Time Graduation Rate		94.1%	(1989-90)		93.9%	(1995-96)	worse	2
High School Program Completion**		69.4%	(1991)		75.2%	(1996)	better	1

* percent of students scoring satisfactory or above in Maryland School Performance Assessment Program test

** percent of students meeting minimal requirements for the University of Maryland System

COUNTY RANK: 1 = best 24 = worst

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Children and Family Services/Programs

	Base Year	Most Current Year	% Change County	% Change Maryland
Adults Receiving FIP/TANF (1996)	797			
Children Receiving FIP/TANF (1990/1996)	1,049	1,881	79.3%	18.2%
Children Enrolled in Medicaid (1990/1996)	1,346	3,280	143.7%	50.9%
Children/Infants Participating in WIC (1990/1996)	635	1,065	67.7%	65.5%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price School Meals (1992/1996)	1858	3,405	83.3%	29.9%
Department of Juvenile Justice Intake Cases (1990/1995)	825	1,642	99%	49.9%

Family Environment (1990)

CHILDREN UNDER 18:	Number	Percent
With Sole/Both Parent(s) Working	34,783	73.2%
With Mothers in the Labor Force	20,233	76.2%
Living in Single Parent Families	6,155	12.7%
Living in Two-Parent Families	39,888	82.3%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ High School Grad. or Higher		91.1%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ College Degree or Higher		46.9%

County Population (1994)

	Number	Percent
Total County Population* (% of State Population)	212,980	4.3%
Minority Population under age 20 (% of Population under 20)	14,054	23.4%
All Persons under age 20 (% of County Population)	60,134	28.2%
Ages 0 - 4	16,984	
Ages 5 - 9	16,402	
Ages 10 - 14	15,109	
Ages 15 - 19	11,639	

* 1994 U.S. Bureau of the Census

Family Economics (1990)

	Number	Percent
Median Family Income (1989)	$61,088	
Average Income of Married-Couple (1989)	$74,221	
Average Income of Female-Headed Family (1989)	$28,054	
% Median Income Spent on Child Care (1996) (based on family of 4 - a couple & 2 children ages 1-2 & 3-5)		17.3%
Weekly Cost of Family Day Care (child 0-2) (1996)	$129.14	
% of Idle Teens (ages 16-19)** (1989)		3.2%

** Teens who are not in school, not working and not looking for work

Kent County Factsheet

COUNTY SEAT: CHESTERTOWN
14 Benchmarks for county's children

County Rank 16

58

	Then			Now			Trend	Rank
Economic Well Being	No.	Rate	Base Yr.	No.	Rate	Current Yr.		
Children in Poverty	554	13.9%	(1979)	492	13.7%	(1989)	better	16
Paying Child Support Cases	461	51.7%	(1993)	463	59.7%	(1996)	better	8
Births to Teens	146	11.1%	(1985-90)	137	12.4%	(1991-95)	worse	16
Good Health								
Low Birthweight Infants (weighing less than 5.5 lbs.)	91	6.9%	(1985-90)	76	6.9%	(1991-95)	same	15
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	10	7.6	(1985-90)	4	3.6	(1991-95)	better	1
Children Screened for Lead Poisoning	374	28.1%	(1992)	110	8.3%	(1995)	worse	11
Safety								
Child Death Rate (ages 1-14, per 100,000 children)	6	50.7	(1988-91)	4	31.2	(1992-95)	better	17
Teen Violent Death Rate (ages 15-19, per 100,000 teens)	8	147.5	(1988-91)	4	79.2	(1992-95)	better	20
Indicated Child Abuse and Neglect Rate (per 1,000 children)	15	3.9	(1990)	27	6.8	(1996)	higher	15
Violence Related Suspension Rate (per 1,000 students)	119	47.4	(1992-93)	208	77.0	(1995-96)	worse	20
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (ages 10-17, per 10,000)	1	6.2	(1990)	9	51.7	(1995)	worse	17
Preparing for Adulthood								
Third Grade Reading*		44.2%	(1992)		48.4%	(1996)	better	3
On-Time Graduation Rate		76.1%	(1989-90)		80.6%	(1995-96)	better	12
High School Program Completion**		38.9%	(1991)		38.3%	(1996)	worse	18

* percent of students scoring satisfactory or above in Maryland School Performance Assessment Program test

** percent of students meeting minimal requirements for the University of Maryland System

COUNTY RANK: 1 = best 24 = worst

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Children and Family Services/Programs

	Base Year	Most Current Year	% Change County	% Change Maryland
Adults Receiving FIP/TANF (1996)	111			
Children Receiving FIP/TANF (1990/1996)	266	278	4.5%	18.2%
Children Enrolled in Medicaid (1990/1996)	340	712	109.4%	50.9%
Children/Infants Participating in WIC (1990/1996)	323	399	23.5%	65.5%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price School Meals (1992/1996)	721	996	38.1%	29.9%
Department of Juvenile Justice Intake Cases (1990/1996)	173	299	72.8%	49.9%

Family Environment (1990)

CHILDREN UNDER 18:	Number	Percent
With Sole/Both Parent(s) Working	2,563	73.2%
With Mothers in the Labor Force	1,409	76.9%
Living in Single Parent Families	728	19.1%
Living in Two-Parent Families	2,497	65.6%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ High School Grad. or Higher		71.4%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ College Degree or Higher		16.9%

County Population (1994)

	Number	Percent
Total County Population* (% of State Population)	18,687	0.4%
Minority Population under age 20 (% of Population under 20)	1,445	30.2%
All Persons under age 20 (% of County Population)	4,778	25.6%
Ages 0 - 4	1,175	
Ages 5 - 9	1,171	
Ages 10 - 14	1,133	
Ages 15 - 19	1,299	

* 1994 U.S. Bureau of the Census

Family Economics (1990)

	Number	Percent
Median Family Income (1989)	$35,231	
Average Income of Married-Couple (1989)	$46,098	
Average Income of Female-Headed Family (1989)	$15,308	
% Median Income Spent on Child Care (1996) (based on family of 4 - a couple & 2 children ages 1-2 & 3-5)		16.5%
Weekly Cost of Family Day Care (child 0-2) (1996)	$63.00	
% of Idle Teens (ages 16-19)** (1989)		4.3%

**Teens who are not in school, not working and not looking for work

Montgomery County Factsheet

COUNTY SEAT: ROCKVILLE
11 Benchmarks for county's children

County Rank 2

	Then			Now			Trend	Rank
Economic Well Being	No.	Rate	Base Yr.	No.	Rate	Current Yr.		
Children in Poverty	7,388	4.9%	(1979)	8,580	4.9%	(1989)	same	3
Paying Child Support Cases	5,605	48.3%	(1993)	5,912	44.1%	(1996)	worse	22
Births to Teens	3,022	4.3%	(1985-90)	2,663	4.3%	(1991-95)	same	2
Good Health								
Low Birthweight Infants (weighing less than 5.5 lbs.)	4,201	6.0%	(1985-90)	3,974	6.5%	(1991-95)	worse	10
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	611	8.7	(1985-90)	455	7.4	(1991-95)	better	10
Children Screened for Lead Poisoning	1,601	2.4%	(1992)	5,272	7.8%	(1995)	better	13
Safety								
Child Death Rate (ages 1-14, per 100,000 children)	131	23.4	(1988-91)	102	15.7	(1992-95)	better	1
Teen Violent Death Rate (ages 15-19, per 100,000 teens)	67	36.4	(1988-91)	60	34.5	(1992-95)	better	3
Indicated Child Abuse and Neglect Rate (per 1,000 children)	514	2.9	(1990)	465	2.3	(1996)	lower	1
Violence Related Suspension Rate (per 1,000 students)	2,141	19.8	(1992-93)	2,669	22.6	(1995-96)	worse	2
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (ages 10-17, per 10,000)	159	22.6	(1990)	169	20.6	(1995)	better	5
Preparing for Adulthood								
Third Grade Reading*		41.6%	(1992)		44.5%	(1996)	better	7
On-Time Graduation Rate		90.4%	(1989-90)		90.6%	(1995-96)	better	4
High School Program Completion**		60.5%	(1991)		64.7%	(1996)	better	2

* percent of students scoring satisfactory or above in Maryland School Performance Assessment Program test

** percent of students meeting minimal requirements for the University of Maryland System

COUNTY RANK: 1 = best 24 = worst

Children and Family Services/Programs

	Base Year	Most Current Year	% Change County	% Change Maryland
Adults Receiving FIP/TANF (1996)	3,251			
Children Receiving FIP/TANF (1990/1996)	5,788	8,292	43.3%	18.2%
Children Enrolled in Medicaid (1990/1996)	7,190	14,955	108.0%	50.9%
Children/Infants Participating in WIC (1990/1996)	3,983	7,343	84.4%	65.5%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price School Meals (1992/1996)	18,230	25,721	41.1%	29.9%
Department of Juvenile Services Intake Cases (1990/1996)	4,065	5,121	26%	49.9%

Family Environment (1990)

CHILDREN UNDER 18:	Number	Percent
With Sole/Both Parent(s) Working	120,844	70.2%
With Mothers in the Labor Force	71,604	73.8%
Living in Single Parent Families	25,450	14.3%
Living in Two-Parent Families	141,488	79.4%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ High School Grad. or Higher		14.3%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ College Degree or Higher		79.4%

County Population (1994)

	Number	Percent
Total County Population* (% of State Population)	802,729	16.0%
Minority Population under age 20	79,507	38.0%
(% of Population under 20)		
All Persons under age 20 (% of County Population)	209,447	26.1%
Ages 0 - 4	61,514	
Ages 5 - 9	55,234	
Ages 10 - 14	50,852	
Ages 15 - 19	41,847	

* 1994 U.S. Bureau of the Census

Family Economics (1990)

	Number	Percent
Median Family Income (1989)	$61,988	
Average Income of Married-Couple (1989)	$83,589	
Average Income of Female-Headed Family (1989)	$29,885	
% Median Income Spent on Child Care (1996)		18.2%
(based on family of 4 - a couple & 2 children ages 1-2 & 3-5)		
Weekly Cost of Family Day Care (child 0-2) (1996)	$126.20	
% of Idle Teens (ages 16-19)** (1989)		3.0%

* Teens who are not in school, not working and not looking for work

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Prince George's County Factsheet

COUNTY SEAT: UPPER MARLBORO
14 Benchmarks for County's Children

County Rank 19

62

	Then			Now			Trend	Rank
Economic Well Being	No.	Rate	Base Yr.	No.	Rate	Current Yr.		
Children in Poverty	14,807	7.8%	(1979)	11,500	6.6%	(1989)	better	8
Paying Child Support Cases	15,389	59.4%	(1993)	16,350	52.5%	(1996)	worse	19
Births to Teens	8,024	10.8%	(1985-90)	6,506	10.0%	(1991-95)	better	10
Good Health								
Low Birthweight Infants (weighing less than 5.5 lbs.)	6,779	9.1%	(1985-90)	6,349	9.7%	(1991-95)	worse	23
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	980	13.2	(1985-90)	868	13.3	(1991-95)	worse	23
Children Screened for Lead Poisoning	4,091	6.2%	(1992)	6,292	9.6%	(1995)	better	10
Safety								
Child Death Rate (ages 1-14, per 100,000 children)	163	28.9	(1988-91)	156	24.3	(1992-95)	better	11
Teen Violent Death Rate (ages 15-19, per 100,000 teens)	194	87.9	(1988-91)	193	96.3	(1992-95)	worse	21
Indicated Child Abuse and Neglect Rate (per 1,000 children)	1,228	7.2	(1990)	1,296	6.5	(1996)	lower	14
Violence Related Suspension Rate (per 1,000 students)	5,193	46.8	(1992-93)	5,702	47.6	(1995-96)	worse	13
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (ages 10-17, per 10,000)	478	66.1	(1990)	670	84.8	(1995)	worse	19
Preparation for Adulthood								
Third Grade Reading*		19.4%	(1992)		25.8%	(1996)	better	22
On-Time Graduation Rate		71.8%	(1989-90)		75.2%	(1995-96)	better	16
High School Program Completion**		45.6%	(1991)		49.5%	(1996)	better	9

* percent of students scoring satisfactory or above in Maryland School Performance Assessment Program test

** percent of students meeting minimal requirements for the University of Maryland System

COUNTY RANK: 1 = best 24 = worst

Children and Family Services/Programs

	Base Year	Most Current Year	% Change County	% Change Maryland
Adults Receiving FIP/TANF (1996)	8,964			
Children Receiving FIP/TANF (1990/1996)	11,578	21,247	83.5%	18.2%
Children Enrolled in Medicaid (1990/1996)	14,752	30,569	107.2%	50.9%
Children/Infants Participating in WIC (1990/1996)	4,224	11,928	182.4%	65.5%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price School Meals (1992/1996)	31,943	50,421	57.8%	29.9%
Department of Juvenile Justice Intake Cases (1990/1996)	5,483	5,476	-.1%	49.9%

Family Environment (1990)

CHILDREN UNDER 18:	Number	Percent
With Sole/Both Parent(s) Working	133,273	79.1%
With Mothers in the Labor Force	78,977	82.3%
Living in Single Parent Families	42,540	23.9%
Living in Two-Parent Families	109,403	61.5%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ High School Grad. or Higher		83.2%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ College Degree or Higher		25.5%

County Population (1990)

	Number	Percent
Total County Population* (% of State Population)	759,744	15.2%
Minority Population under age 20	154,389	71.2%
(% of Population under 20)		
All Persons under age 20 (% of County Population)	216,706	28.5%
Ages 0 - 4	60,277	
Ages 5 - 9	54,102	
Ages 10 - 14	51,848	
Ages 15 - 19	50,479	

*1994 U.S. Bureau of the Census

Family Economics (1990)

	Number	Percent
Median Family Income (1989)	$48,471	
Average Income of Married-Couple (1989)	$57,358	
Average Income of Female-Headed Family (1989)	$27,462	
% Median Income Spent on Child Care (1996)		18.2%
(based on family of 4 - a couple & 2 children ages 1-2 & 3-5)		
Weekly Cost of Family Day Care (child 0-2) (1996)	$99.99	
% of Idle Teens (ages 16-19)** (1989)		4.8%

** Teens who are not in school, not working and not looking for work

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Queen Anne's County Factsheet

COUNTY SCORECARD
14 Benchmarks for county's children

County Rank 9

64

	Then			Now			Trend	Rank
Economic Well-being	**No.**	**Rate**	**Base Yr.**	**No.**	**Rate**	**Current Yr.**		
Children in Poverty	766	11.1%	(1979)	615	7.5%	(1989)	better	11
Paying Child Support Cases	604	51.4%	(1993)	623	58.7%	(1996)	better	11
Births to Teens	292	10.8%	(1985-90)	203	9.3%	(1991-95)	better	9
Good Health								
Low Birthweight Infants (weighing less than 5.5 lbs.)	155	5.7%	(1985-90)	136	6.2%	(1991-95)	worse	6
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	20	7.4	(1985-90)	17	7.8	(1991-95)	worse	13
Children Screened for Lead Poisoning	279	9.5%	(1992)	110	3.7%	(1995)	worse	22
Safety								
Child Death Rate (ages 1-14, per 100,000 children)	13	50.7	(1988-91)	5	17.5	(1992-95)	better	2
Teen Violent Death Rate (ages 15-19, per 100,000 teens)	8	94.0	(1988-91)	8	99.9	(1992-95)	worse	22
Indicated Child Abuse and Neglect Rate (per 1,000 children)	42	5.0	(1990)	28	3.2	(1996)	lower	3
Violence Related Suspension Rate (per 1,000 children)	284	50.6	(1992-93)	351	57.7	(1995-96)	worse	15
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (ages 10-17, per 10,000)	5	15.1	(1990)	5	12.6	(1995)	better	3
Preparing for Adulthood								
Third Grade Reading*		40.9%	(1992)		40.3%	(1996)	worse	11
On-Time Graduation Rate		77.4%	(1989-90)		79.0%	(1995-96)	better	13
High School Program Completion**		40.7%	(1991)		39.9%	(1996)	worse	14

* percent of students scoring satisfactory or above in Maryland School Performance Assessment Program test

** percent of students meeting minimal requirements for the University of Maryland System

COUNTY RANK: 1 = best 24 = worst

Children and Family Services/Programs

	Base Year	Most Current Year	% Change County	% Change Maryland
Adults Receiving FIP/TANF (1996)	178			
Children Receiving FIP/TANF (1990/1996)	429	424	-1.2%	18.2%
Children Enrolled in Medicaid (1990/1996)	571	981	71.8%	50.9%
Children/Infants Participating in WIC (1990/1996)	331	445	34.4%	65.5%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price School Meals (1992/1996)	1,121	1,221	8.9%	29.9%
Department of Juvenile Justice Intake Cases (1990/1996)	232	401	72.8%	49.9%

Family Environment (1990)

CHILDREN UNDER 18:	Number	Percent
With Sole/Both Parent(s) Working	5,694	71.2%
With Mothers in the Labor Force	3,218	73.9%
Living in Single Parent Families	1,205	14.4%
Living in Two-Parent Families	6,273	75.2%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ High School Grad. or Higher		76.8%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ College Degree or Higher		19.9%

County Population (1994)

	Number	Percent
Total County Population* (% of State Population)	36,070	0.7%
Minority Population under age 20	1,515	15.5%
(% of Population under 20)		
All Persons under age 20 (% of County Population)	9,765	27.1%
Ages 0 - 4	2,610	
Ages 5 - 9	2,760	
Ages 10 - 14	2,514	
Ages 15 - 19	1,881	

* 1994 U.S Bureau of the Census

Family Economics (1990)

	Number	Percent
Median Family Income (1989)	$43,173	
Average Income of Married-Couple (1989)	$51,784	
Average Income of Female-Headed Family (1989)	$18,704	
% Median Income Spent on Child Care (1996)		16.1%
(based on family of 4 - a couple & 2 children ages 1-2 & 3-5)		
Weekly Cost of Family Day Care (child 0-2) (1996)	$75.37	
% of Idle Teens (ages 16-19)* (1989)		8.0%

* Teens who are not in school, not working and not looking for work

Saint Mary's County Factsheet

COUNTY SEAT LEONARDTOWN
11 Benchmarks for county's children

County Rank 12

	Then			Now			Trend	Rank
Economic Well-being	No.	Rate	Base Yr.	No.	Rate	Current Yr.		
Children in Poverty	2,453	12.6%	(1979)	2,111	10.0%	(1989)	better	13
Paying Child Support Cases	1,526	51.5%	(1993)	1,652	58.5%	(1996)	better	12
Births to Teens	908	11.9%	(1985-90)	645	10.0%	(1991-95)	better	10
Good Health								
Low Birthweight Infants (weighing less than 5.5 lbs.)	540	7.0%	(1985-90)	421	6.5%	(1991-95)	better	10
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	100	13.1	(1985-90)	64	9.9	(1991-95)	better	19
Children Screened for Lead Poisoning	846	10.4%	(1992)	890	11.0%	(1995)	better	6
Safety								
Child Death Rate (ages 1-14, per 100,000 children)	33	48.6	(1988-91)	23	31.0	(1992-95)	better	16
Teen Violent Death Rate (ages 15-19, per 100,000 teens)	12	49.9	(1988-91)	11	50.6	(1992-95)	worse	9
Indicated Child Abuse and Neglect Rate (per 1,000 children)	201	9.3	(1990)	166	7.2	(1996)	lower	16
Violence Related Suspension Rate (per 1,000 students)	642	51.0	(1992-93)	851	63.3	(1995-96)	worse	16
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (ages 10-17, per 10,000)	45	52.8	(1990)	39	40.1	(1995)	better	12
Preparing for Adulthood								
Third Grade Reading*		24.7%	(1992)		41.3%	(1996)	better	9
On-Time Graduation Rate		76.4%	(1989-90)		77.6%	(1995-96)	better	14
High School Program Completion**		33.7%	(1991)		38.4%	(1996)	better	17

* percent of students scoring satisfactory or above in Maryland School Performance Assessment Program test

** percent of students meeting minimal requirements for the University of Maryland System

COUNTY RANK: 1 = best 24 = worst

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Children and Family Services/Programs

	Base Year	Most Current Year	% Change County	% Change Maryland
Adults Receiving FIP/TANF (1996)	723			
Children Receiving FIP/TANF (1990/1996)	1,200	1,785	48.8%	18.2%
Children Enrolled in Medicaid (1990/1996)	1,574	3,243	106.0%	50.9%
Children/Infants Participating in WIC (1990/1996)	1,127	1,421	26.1%	65.5%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price School Meals (1992/1996)	2,765	3,767	36.2%	29.9%
Department of Juvenile Justice Intake Cases (1990/1996)	489	236	-51.7%	49.9%

Family Environment (1990)

CHILDREN UNDER 18:	Number	Percent
With Sole/Both Parent(s) Working	13,872	66.7%
With Mothers in the Labor Force	7,611	71.2%
Living in Single Parent Families	3,080	14.3%
Living in Two-Parent Families	16,620	77.1%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ High School Grad. or Higher		77.1%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ College Degree or Higher		16.8%

County Population (1994)

	Number	Percent
Total County Population* (% of State Population)	80,324	1.6%
Minority Population under age 20	5,453	21.1%
(% of Population under 20)		
All Persons under age 20 (% of County Population)	25,864	32.2%
Ages 0 - 4	7,303	
Ages 5 - 9	6,807	
Ages 10 - 14	6,290	
Ages 15 - 19	5,464	

*1994 U.S. Bureau of the Census

Family Economics (1990)

	Number	Percent
Median Family Income (1989)	$40,828	
Average Income of Married-Couple (1989)	$46,589	
Average Income of Female-Headed Family (1989)	$19,426	
% Median Income Spent on Child Care (1996)		17.7%
(based on family of 4 - a couple & 2 children ages 1-2 & 3-5)		
Weekly Cost of Family Day Care (child 0-2) (1996)	$79.99	
% of Idle Teens (ages 16-19)* (1989)		8.1%

* Teens who are not in school, not working and not looking for work

Somerset County Factsheet

COUNTY SEAT: PRINCESS ANNE

14 Benchmarks for county's children

County Rank 22

	Then			Now			Trend	Rank
	No.	Rate	Base Yr.	No.	Rate	Current Yr.		
Economic Well-being								
Children in Poverty	949	19.3%	(1979)	840	17.8%	(1989)	better	20
Paying Child Support Cases	905	54.6%	(1993)	931	60.7%	(1996)	better	7
Births to Teens	353	22.6%	(1985-90)	263	19.8%	(1991-95)	better	23
Good Health								
Low Birthweight Infants (weighing less than 5.5 lbs.)	134	8.6%	(1985-90)	128	9.6%	(1991-95)	worse	22
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	18	11.5	(1985-90)	9	6.8	(1991-95)	better	6
Children Screened for Lead Poisoning	398	26.3%	(1992)	240	15.8%	(1995)	worse	3
Safety								
Child Death Rate (ages 1-14, per 100,000 children)	4	27.2	(1988-91)	5	31.9	(1992-95)	worse	18
Teen Violent Death Rate (ages 15-19, per 100,000 teens)	6	73.3	(1988-91)	5	72.3	(1992-95)	better	18
Indicated Child Abuse and Neglect Rate (per 1,000 children)	53	11.2	(1990)	68	14.4	(1996)	higher	23
Violence Related Suspension Rate (per 1,000 students)	597	181.3	(1992-93)	376	120.2	(1995-96)	better	24
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (ages 10-17, per 10,000)	6	28.2	(1990)	7	33.3	(1995)	worse	8
Education and Adulthood								
Third Grade Reading*		25.2%	(1992)		23.9%	(1996)	worse	23
On-Time Graduation Rate		73.3%	(1989-90)		63.0%	(1995-96)	worse	23
High School Program Completion**		23.3%	(1991)		23.4%	(1996)	better	24

* percent of students scoring satisfactory or above in Maryland School Performance Assessment Program test

** percent of students meeting minimal requirements for the University of Maryland System

COUNTY RANK: 1 = best 24 = worst

Children and Family Services/Programs

	Base Year	Most Current Year	% Change County	% Change Maryland
Adults Receiving FIP/TANF (1996)	404			
Children Receiving FIP/TANF (1990/1996)	683	850	24.5%	18.2%
Children Enrolled in Medicaid (1990/1996)	866	1,517	75.2%	50.9%
Children/Infants Participating in WIC (1990/1996)	399	534	33.8%	65.5%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price School Meals (1992/1996)	1,747	1,752	.3%	29.9%
Department of Juvenile Justice Intake Cases (1990/1996)	101	903	794.1%	49.9%

Family Environment (1990)

CHILDREN UNDER 18:	Number	Percent
With Sole/Both Parent(s) Working	3,447	75.3%
With Mothers in the Labor Force	1,950	77.7%
Living in Single Parent Families	1,285	27.2%
Living in Two-Parent Families	2,702	57.2%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ High School Grad. or Higher		61.2%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ College Degree or Higher		9.6%

County Population (1994)

	Number	Percent
Total County Population* (% of State Population)	23,726	0.5%
Minority Population under age 20	2,956	49.6%
(% of Population under 20)		
All Persons under age 20 (% of County Population)	5,961	25.1%
Ages 0 - 4	1,287	
Ages 5 - 9	1,396	
Ages 10 - 14	1,482	
Ages 15 - 19	1,796	

* 1994 U.S. Bureau of the Census

Family Economics (1990)

	Number	Percent
Median Family Income (1989)	$27,097	
Average Income of Married-Couple (1989)	$38,084	
Average Income of Female-Headed Family (1989)	$14,494	
% Median Income Spent on Child Care (1996)		19.1%
(based on family of 4 - a couple & 2 children ages 1-2 & 3-5)		
Weekly Cost of Family Day Care (child 0-2) (1996)	$60.45	
% of Idle Teens (ages 16-19)* (1989)		9.9%

* Teens who are not in school, not working and not looking for work

Talbot County Factsheet

COUNTY SEAT: EASTON
14 Benchmarks for county's children

County Rank: 14

	Then			Now			Trend	Rank
Economic Well Being	No.	Rate	Base Yr.	No.	Rate	Current Yr.		
Children in Poverty	780	13.5%	(1979)	625	10.0%	(1989)	better	13
Paying Child Support Cases	649	52.7%	(1993)	673	65.2%	(1996)	better	2
Births to Teens	274	12.3%	(1985-90)	217	11.7%	(1991-95)	better	13
Good Health								
Low Birthweight Infants (weighing less than 5.5 lbs.)	180	8.1%	(1985-90)	138	7.4%	(1991-95)	better	17
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	29	13.0	(1985-90)	18	9.7	(1991-95)	better	18
Children Screened for Lead Poisoning	200	8.6%	(1992)	118	5.1%	(1995)	worse	19
Safety								
Child Death Rate (ages 1-14, per 100,000 children)	9	45.4	(1988-91)	5	22.6	(1992-95)	better	7
Teen Violent Death Rate (ages 15-19, per 100,000 teens)	6	89.3	(1988-91)	3	47.9	(1992-95)	better	8
Indicated Child Abuse and Neglect Rate (per 1,000 children)	53	8.2	(1990)	44	6.3	(1996)	lower	12
Violence Related Suspension Rate (per 1,000 students)	361	86.9	(1992-93)	369	85.6	(1995-96)	better	21
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (ages 10-17, per 10,000)	15	58.4	(1990)	41	135.3	(1995)	worse	22
Preparing for Adulthood								
Third Grade Reading*		24.7%	(1992)		47.0%	(1996)	better	4
On-Time Graduation Rate		75.8%	(1989-90)		71.5%	(1995-96)	worse	20
High School Program Completion**		30.6%	(1991)		59.7%	(1996)	better	4

* percent of students scoring satisfactory or above in Maryland School Performance Assessment Program test

** percent of students meeting minimal requirements for the University of Maryland System

COUNTY RANK: 1 = best 24 = worst

Children and Family Services/Programs

	Base Year	Most Current Year	% Change County	% Change Maryland
Adults Receiving FIP/TANF (1996)	200			
Children Receiving FIP/TANF (1990/1996)	465	539	15.9%	18.2%
Children Enrolled in Medicaid (1990/1996)	652	1,135	74.1%	50.9%
Children/Infants Participating in WIC (1990/1996)	343	507	47.8%	65.5%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price School Meals (1992/1996)	873	1,146	31.3%	29.9%
Department of Juvenile Justice Intake Cases (1990/1996)	316	576	82.3%	49.9%

Family Environment (1990)

CHILDREN UNDER 18:	Number	Percent
With Sole/Both Parent(s) Working	4,750	78.1%
With Mothers in the Labor Force	2,704	79.7%
Living in Single Parent Families	1,283	19.9%
Living in Two-Parent Families	4,426	68.8%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ High School Grad. or Higher		76.6%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ College Degree or Higher		23.0%

County Population (1994)

	Number	Percent
Total County Population* (% of State Population)	32,015	0.6%
Minority Population under age 20	1,916	25.7%
(% of Population under 20)		
All Persons under age 20 (% of County Population)	7,443	23.2%
Ages 0 - 4	1,996	
Ages 5 - 9	2,072	
Ages 10 - 14	1,887	
Ages 15 - 19	1,488	

*1994 U.S. Bureau of the Census

Family Economics (1990)

	Number	Percent
Median Family Income (1989)	$38,599	
Average Income of Married-Couple (1989)	$59,689	
Average Income of Female-Headed Family (1989)	$17,722	
% Median Income Spent on Child Care (1996)		16.4%
(based on family of 4 - a couple & 2 children ages 1-2 & 3-5)		
Weekly Cost of Family Day Care (child 0-2) (1996)	$67.84	
% of Idle Teens (ages 16-19)** (1989)		5.4%

**Teens who are not in school, not working and not looking for work

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Washington County Factsheet

COUNTY SEAT: HAGERSTOWN
14 Benchmarks for county's children

County Rank 8

72

	Then			Now			Trend	Rank
Economic Well-Being	No.	Rate	Base Yr.	No.	Rate	Current Yr.		
Children in Poverty	3,854	13.1%	(1979)	3,345	12.4%	(1989)	better	15
Paying Child Support Cases	2,878	68.5%	(1993)	2,896	70.5%	(1996)	worse	1
Births to Teens	1,261	13.5%	(1985-90)	962	12.0%	(1991-95)	better	14
Good Health								
Low Birthweight Infants (weighing less than 5.5 lbs.)	594	6.4%	(1985-90)	480	6.0%	(1991-95)	better	5
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	87	9.3	(1985-90)	65	8.1	(1991-95)	better	15
Children Screened for Lead Poisoning	849	8.7%	(1992)	763	7.9%	(1995)	worse	12
Safety								
Child Death Rate (ages 1-14, per 100,000 children)	28	32.8	(1988-91)	25	26.4	(1992-95)	better	13
Teen Violent Death Rate (ages 15-19, per 100,000 teens)	20	60.9	(1988-91)	17	56.9	(1992-95)	better	10
Indicated Child Abuse and Neglect Rate (per 1,000 children)	190	6.9	(1990)	259	8.8	(1996)	higher	17
Violence Related Suspension Rate (per 1,000 students)	326	17.8	(1992-93)	383	19.7	(1995-96)	worse	1
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (ages 10-17, per 10,000)	21	18.2	(1990)	43	33.5	(1995)	worse	9
Preparing for Adulthood								
Third Grade Reading*		26.1%	(1992)		36.4%	(1996)	better	16
On-Time Graduation Rate		79.3%	(1989-90)		82.2%	(1995-96)	better	10
High School Program Completion**		33.4%	(1991)		39.7%	(1996)	better	15

* percent of students scoring satisfactory or above in Maryland School Performance Assessment Program test

** percent of students meeting minimal requirements for the University of Maryland System

COUNTY RANK: 1 = best 24 = worst

Children and Family Services/Programs

	Base Year	Most Current Year	% Change County	% Change Maryland
Adults Receiving FIP/TANF (1996)	1,123			
Children Receiving FIP/TANF (1990/1996)	2,455	2,587	5.4%	18.2%
Children Enrolled in Medicaid (1990/1996)	3,159	5,081	60.8%	50.9%
Children/Infants Participating in WIC (1990/1996)	2,007	2,216	10.4%	65.5%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price School Meals (1992/1996)	5,103	5,950	16.6%	29.9%
Department of Juvenile Justice Intake Cases (1990/1996)	938	1,211	29.1%	49.9%

Family Environment (1990)

CHILDREN UNDER 18:	Number	Percent
With Sole/Both Parent(s) Working	17,383	65.4%
With Mothers in the Labor Force	10,119	68.7%
Living in Single Parent Families	5,086	18.5%
Living in Two-Parent Families	20,210	73.4%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ High School Grad. or Higher		69.3%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ College Degree or Higher		11.4%

County Population (1994)

	Number	Percent
Total County Population* (% of State Population)	126,601	2.5%
Minority Population under age 20	2,811	8.7%
(% of Population under 20)		
All Persons under age 20 (% of County Population)	32,394	25.6%
Ages 0 - 4	8,329	
Ages 5 - 9	8,458	
Ages 10 - 14	8,215	
Ages 15 - 19	7,392	

* 1994 U.S. Bureau of the Census

Family Economics (1990)

	Number	Percent
Median Family Income (1989)	$34,614	
Average Income of Married-Couple (1989)	$44,383	
Average Income of Female-Headed Family (1989)	$14,153	
% Median Income Spent on Child Care (1996)		18.7%
(based on family of 4 - a couple & 2 children ages 1-2 & 3-5)		
Weekly Cost of Family Day Care (child 0-2) (1996)	$75.78	
% of Idle Teens (ages 16-19)** (1989)		8.4%

** Teens who are not in school, not working and not looking for work

Wicomico County Factsheet

COUNTY SEAT: SALISBURY
14 Benchmarks for County's Children

County Rank 21

	Then			Now			Trend	Rank
Economic Well Being	No.	Rate	Base Yr.	No.	Rate	Current Yr.		
Children in Poverty	2,594	15.6%	(1979)	2,757	15.5%	(1989)	better	19
Paying Child Support Cases	2,037	44.9%	(1993)	2,037	49.0%	(1996)	better	20
Births to Teens	906	14.2%	(1985-90)	911	16.1%	(1991-95)	worse	21
Good Health								
Low Birthweight Infants (weighing less than 5.5 lbs.)	481	7.5%	(1985-90)	472	8.3%	(1991-95)	worse	19
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	75	11.7	(1985-90)	59	10.4	(1991-95)	better	21
Children Screened for Lead Poisoning	553	8.8%	(1992)	726	11.5%	(1995)	better	5
Safety								
Child Death Rate (ages 1-14, per 100,000 children)	17	29.9	(1988-91)	15	23.0	(1992-95)	better	8
Teen Violent Death Rate (ages 15-19, per 100,000 teens)	22	95.5	(1988-91)	13	58.6	(1992-95)	better	13
Indicated Child Abuse and Neglect Rate (per 1,000 children)	236	12.9	(1990)	230	11.5	(1996)	lower	21
Violence Related Suspension Rate (per 1,000 students)	1,029	78.4	(1992-93)	1,162	85.6	(1995-96)	worse	21
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (ages 10-17, per 10,000)	64	83.7	(1990)	99	114.8	(1995)	worse	21
Preparing for Adulthood								
Third Grade Reading*		23.8%	(1992)		31.2%	(1996)	better	20
On-Time Graduation Rate		81.4%	(1989-90)		73.3%	(1995-96)	worse	18
High School Program Completion**		47.7%	(1991)		44.9%	(1996)	worse	13

* percent of students scoring satisfactory or above in Maryland School Performance Assessment Program test

** percent of students meeting minimal requirements for the University of Maryland System

COUNTY RANK: 1 = best 24 = worst

Children and Family Services/Programs

	Base Year	Most Current Year	% Change County	% Change Maryland
Adults Receiving FIP/TANF (1996)	1,146			
Children Receiving FIP/TANF (1990/1996)	2,088	2,701	29.4%	18.2%
Children Enrolled in Medicaid (1990/1996)	2,551	4,586	79.8%	50.9%
Children/Infants Participating in WIC (1990/1996)	1,256	1,649	31.3%	65.5%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price School Meals (1992/1996)	3,253	4,623	42.1%	29.9%
Department of Juvenile Justice Intake Cases (1990/1996)	766	1,297	69.3%	49.9%

Family Environment (1990)

CHILDREN UNDER 18:	Number	Percent
With Sole/Both Parent(s) Working	12,608	72.6%
With Mothers in the Labor Force	7,088	76.8%
Living in Single Parent Families	4,420	24.4%
Living in Two-Parent Families	11,591	64.0%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ High School Grad. or Higher		72.1%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ College Degree or Higher		18.5%

County Population (199)

	Number	Percent
Total County Population* (% of State Population)	78,472	1.6%
Minority Population under age 20 (% of Population under 20)	7,386	33.1%
All Persons under age 20 (% of County Population)	22,346	28.5%
Ages 0 - 4	5,600	
Ages 5 - 9	5,713	
Ages 10 - 14	5,672	
Ages 15- 19	5,361	

* 1994 U.S. Bureau of the Census

Family Economics (1990)

	Number	Percent
Median Family Income (1989)	$33,449	
Average Income of Married-Couple (1989)	$49,729	
Average Income of Female-Headed Family (1989)	$16,189	
% Median Income Spent on Child Care (1996) (based on family of 4 - a couple & 2 children ages 1-2 & 3-5)		17.5%
Weekly Cost of Family Day Care (child 0-2) (1996)	$64.29	
%of Idle Teens (ages 16-19)** (1989)		3.9%

* Teens who are not in school, not working and not looking for work

Worcester County Factsheet

COUNTY SEAT: SNOW HILL
14 Benchmarks for county's children

County Rank 18

	Then			Now			Trend	Rank
Economic Well-Being	No.	Rate	Base Yr.	No.	Rate	Current Yr.		
Children in Poverty	1,296	16.8%	(1979)	1,104	14.7%	(1989)	better	18
Paying Child Support Cases	1,005	50.9%	(1993)	1,113	54.4%	(1996)	better	16
Births to Teens	379	12.6%	(1985-90)	335	13.5%	(1991-95)	worse	18
Good Health								
Low Birthweight Infants (weighing less than 5.5 lbs.)	233	7.7%	(1985-90)	158	6.4%	(1991-95)	better	9
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	35	11.6	(1985-90)	23	9.3	(1991-95)	better	17
Children Screened for Lead Poisoning	413	15.1%	(1992)	384	14.0%	(1995)	worse	4
Safety								
Child Death Rate (ages 1-14, per 100,000 children)	11	45.3	(1988-91)	12	43.1	(1992-95)	better	21
Teen Violent Death Rate (ages 15-19, per 100,000 teens)	6	73.5	(1988-91)	10	129.2	(1992-95)	worse	23
Indicated Child Abuse and Neglect Rate (per 1,000 children)	62	8.0	(1990)	96	10.9	(1996)	higher	20
Violence Related Suspension Rate (per 1,000 students)	415	70.0	(1992-93)	319	49.2	(1995-96)	better	14
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (ages 10-17, per 10,000)	15	47.5	(1990)	15	39.8	(1995)	better	11
Preparing for Adulthood								
Third Grade Reading*		22.1%	(1992)		33.0%	(1996)	better	17
On-Time Graduation Rate		82.2%	(1989-90)		81.3%	(1995-96)	worse	11
High School Program Completion**		38.9%	(1991)		45.1%	(1996)	better	12

* percent of students scoring satisfactory or above in Maryland School Performance Assessment Program test

** percent of students meeting minimal requirements for the University of Maryland System

COUNTY RANK: 1 = best 24 = worst

Children and Family Services/Programs

	Base Year	Most Current Year	% Change County	% Change Maryland
Adults Receiving FIP/TANF (1996)	379			
Children Receiving FIP/TANF (1990/1996)	737	944	28.1%	18.2%
Children Enrolled in Medicaid (1990/1996)	945	1,937	105.0%	50.9%
Children/Infants Participating in WIC (1990/1996)	693	611	-11.8%	65.5%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price School Meals (1992/1996)	1,928	2,356	22.2%	29.9%
Department of Juvenile Justice Intake Cases (1990/1996)	911	1,147	25.9%	49.9%

Family Environment (1990)

CHILDREN UNDER 18:	Number	Percent
With Sole/Both Parent(s) Working	5,372	73.4%
With Mothers in the Labor Force	3,102	77.5%
Living in Single Parent Families	1,766	22.9%
Living in Two-Parent Families	4,910	63.8%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ High School Grad. or Higher		70.8%
% of Persons 25 yrs.+ College Degree or Higher		14.8%

County Population (1994)

	Number	Percent
Total County Population* (% of State Population)	39,015	0.8%
Minority Population under age 20	3,283	34.5%
(% of Population under 20)		
All Persons under age 20 (% of County Population)	9,525	24.4%
Ages 0 - 4	2,567	
Ages 5 - 9	2,575	
Ages 10 - 14	2,430	
Ages 15 - 19	1,953	

* 1994 U.S. Bureau of the Census

Family Economics (1990)

	Number	Percent
Median Family Income (1989)	$33,089	
Average Income of Married-Couple (1989)	$46,465	
Average Income of Female-Headed Family (1989)	$14,687	
% Median Income Spent on Child Care (1996)		20.6%
(based on family of 4 - a couple & 2 children ages 1-2 & 3-5)		
Weekly Cost of Family Day Care (child 0-2) (1996)	$70.98	
% of Idle Teens (ages 16-19)** (1989)		6.7%

**Teens who are not in school, not working and not looking for work

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Appendix

160

161

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Appendix

The following tables present data by county on the fourteen KIDS COUNT indicators. These are the same data that are represented on the individual county factsheets but are in aggregate form allowing the reader to more easily compare actual numbers and rates and appreciate the range between the highest and lowest ranked counties on each indicator. There are two additional tables of data that are not included on the county fact sheets, they are teen birth rate, and lead poisoning. These extra data elements will aid the reader in interpreting related KIDS COUNT indicators.

Child Poverty

Number and percent of children *(under age 18)* living below the federal poverty level

Maryland

County	THEN 1979		NOW 1989		TREND	RANK
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate		
Allegany	3,049	15.4%	3,851	24.0%	worse	23
Anne Arundel	8,426	8.1%	5,746	5.6%	better	5
Baltimore City	67,178	32.5%	56,249	32.2%	better	24
Baltimore County	10,099	6.5%	10,100	6.8%	worse	10
Calvert	1,416	12.6%	934	6.5%	better	7
Caroline	921	14.5%	953	13.9%	better	17
Carroll	1,517	5.4%	1,291	4.0%	better	2
Cecil	1,811	9.7%	1,685	9.1%	better	12
Charles	2,630	10.3%	1,565	5.4%	better	4
Dorchester	1,418	18.3%	1,321	19.5%	worse	22
Frederick	2,274	6.7%	2,168	5.6%	better	5
Garrett	1,363	17.1%	1,401	18.9%	worse	21
Harford	4,028	9.0%	3,154	6.6%	better	8
Howard	1,424	4.0%	1,762	3.7%	better	1
Kent	554	13.9%	492	13.7%	better	16
Montgomery	7,388	4.9%	8,580	4.9%	same	3
Prince George's	14,807	7.8%	11,500	6.6%	better	8
Queen Anne's	766	11.1%	615	7.5%	better	11
St. Mary's	2,453	12.6%	2,111	10.0%	better	13
Somerset	949	19.3%	840	17.8%	better	20
Talbot	780	13.5%	625	10.0%	better	13
Washington	3,854	13.1%	3,345	12.4%	better	15
Wicomico	2,594	15.6%	2,757	15.5%	better	19
Worcester	1,296	16.8%	1,104	14.7%	better	18
MARYLAND*	**124,149** (1980)	**10.9%**	**171,230** (1990)*	**15.1%**	**worse**	

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

* Current Population Survey

Child Support

Number of court-ordered child support cases, number of paying cases, percent of paying cases

Maryland

County	THEN 1993			NOW 1995			TREND	RANK
	Total Orders	#Paying Cases	%Paying Cases	Total Orders	#Paying Cases	%Paying Cases		
Allegany	3,142	1,489	47.4%	3,234	1,713	53.0%	better	18
Anne Arundel	13,949	6,400	45.9%	15,702	6,207	39.5%	worse	23
Baltimore City	127,126	20,663	16.3%	120,034	19,433	16.2%	worse	24
Baltimore County	14,553	9,135	62.8%	15,868	9,847	62.1%	worse	5
Calvert	2,180	1,111	51.0%	1,989	1,132	56.9%	better	14
Caroline	1,662	893	53.7%	1,501	889	59.2%	better	9
Carroll	2,524	1,350	53.5%	2,637	1,550	58.8%	better	10
Cecil	3,235	2,071	64.0%	3,383	2,202	65.1%	better	3
Charles	3,742	1,801	48.1%	3,672	2,133	58.1%	better	13
Dorchester	2,218	1,028	46.3%	2,094	1,027	49.0%	better	20
Frederick	3,480	1,726	49.6%	3,682	2,239	60.8%	better	6
Garrett	691	423	61.2%	709	454	64.0%	better	4
Harford	4,729	2,247	47.5%	4,124	2,202	53.4%	better	17
Howard	2,559	1,197	46.8%	2,819	1,570	55.7%	better	15
Kent	891	461	51.7%	775	463	59.7%	better	8
Montgomery	11,598	5,605	48.3%	13,392	5,912	44.1%	worse	22
Prince George's	25,914	15,389	59.4%	31,156	16,350	52.5%	worse	19
Queen Anne's	1,174	604	51.4%	1,061	623	58.7%	better	11
St. Mary's	2,964	1,526	51.5%	2,825	1,652	58.5%	better	12
Somerset	1,657	905	54.6%	1,535	931	60.7%	better	7
Talbot	1,232	649	52.7%	1,032	673	65.2%	better	2
Washington	4,199	2,878	68.5%	4,110	2,896	70.5%	better	1
Wicomico	4,533	2,037	44.9%	4,155	2,037	49.0%	better	20
Worcester	1,975	1,005	50.9%	2,047	1,113	54.4%	better	16
MARYLAND	**241,927**	**92,593**	**34.1%**	**243,536**	**85,248**	**35.0%**	better	

Source: Child Support Enforcement Administration

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Appendix

Teen Birth Rate

Rate of births from mothers ages 15-19 per 1,000 live births within the same race, by race

Maryland

County	THEN 1985			NOW 1995		
	Total	White	African American*	Total	White	African American
Allegany	35.1	34.3	66.7	48.8	48.6	61.5
Anne Arundel	34.8	28.6	68.5	39.5	32.8	79.7
Baltimore City	86.6	62.2	97.5	99.5	52.6	119.2
Baltimore County	24.3	22.7	33.3	36.5	27.8	74.6
Calvert	40.3	27.5	81.3	40.9	28.9	97.4
Caroline	67.7	51.3	136.8	63.2	59.4	64.7
Carroll	28.6	30	45	25	25.5	0
Cecil	42.9	44.8	27.3	52.1	53.6	37.5
Charles	36	25.3	75.2	42.6	33.8	75.6
Dorchester	73.7	28.9	154.8	72.1	38	113.9
Frederick	28.8	26.1	67.5	37.5	31	116.2
Garrett	39.2	39.2	0	48	47.4	100
Harford	33.1	30.8	50.6	32.9	27.5	75.3
Howard	18.7	16.8	26.8	23.3	18.4	46.7
Kent	39.7	20.4	94.7	45.6	26.9	121.4
Montgomery	17.2	13.9	27.6	24.7	20.5	40.6
Prince George's	39.3	27.9	49	50.1	27.4	59.6
Queen Anne's	39.5	40	36.8	31.3	21.8	100
St. Mary's	41.1	33.1	77.8	44.4	31.8	116.7
Somerset	65.6	57.1	72.5	58.4	73.3	47.5
Talbot	41.7	21.3	96.4	55.3	24.6	147.4
Washington	46.9	43.5	135.3	50	47.2	123.1
Wicomico	51	37.7	87.5	55.6	31.4	127.9
Worcester	59.5	36.5	107.3	57.1	37.7	103.7
MARYLAND	**41.2**	**28.9**	**67.5**	**47.7**	**31.3**	**82.6**

Source: Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

* African American category for 1985 also includes all other races

Percent of Births to Teens

Number of births to women under age 20, percentage of total births born to women under age 20

Maryland

County	THEN 1986-1990			NOW 1991-1995			TREND	RANK
	Total Births to Teens	Total Births	% Births to Teens	Total Births to Teens	Total Births	% Births to Teens		
Allegany	797	5,286	15.1%	651	4,239	15.4%	worse	20
Anne Arundel	3,502	38,630	9.1%	2,493	32,488	7.7%	better	7
Baltimore City	18,124	81,747	22.2%	12,946	60,721	21.3%	better	24
Baltimore County	4,239	56,977	7.4%	3,414	47,255	7.2%	better	6
Calvert	488	4,525	10.8%	349	4,404	7.9%	better	8
Caroline	398	2,262	17.6%	297	1,950	15.2%	better	19
Carroll	775	11,048	7.0%	560	9,294	6.0%	better	3
Cecil	966	6,428	15.0%	699	5,642	12.4%	better	16
Charles	1,081	9,584	11.3%	825	8,249	10.0%	better	10
Dorchester	548	2,531	21.7%	345	1,852	18.6%	better	22
Frederick	1,150	13,332	8.6%	909	12,870	7.1%	better	4
Garrett	341	2,288	14.9%	237	1,964	12.1%	better	15
Harford	1,377	15,570	8.8%	1,043	14,767	7.1%	better	4
Howard	654	16,272	4.0%	546	16,652	3.3%	better	1
Kent	146	1,312	11.1%	137	1,101	12.4%	worse	16
Montgomery	3,022	69,864	4.3%	2,663	61,482	4.3%	same	2
Prince George's	8,024	74,270	10.8%	6,506	65,153	10.0%	better	10
Queen Anne's	292	2,714	10.8%	203	2,177	9.3%	better	9
St. Mary's	908	7,662	11.9%	645	6,470	10.0%	better	10
Somerset	353	1,561	22.6%	263	1,327	19.8%	better	23
Talbot	274	2,228	12.3%	217	1,860	11.7%	better	13
Washington	1,261	9,354	13.5%	962	7,989	12.0%	better	14
Wicomico	906	6,388	14.2%	911	5,665	16.1%	worse	21
Worcester	379	3,015	12.6%	335	2,483	13.5%	worse	18
MARYLAND	**50,006**	**444,848**	**11.2%**	**38,158**	**378,054**	**10.1%**	better	

Source: Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Division of Health Statistics

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Appendix

Low Birth Weight Infants

Number and percent of infants born weighing less than 5.5 lbs.
Maryland

County	THEN 1985-1990		NOW 1991-1995		TREND	RANK
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent		
Allegany	304	5.8%	251	5.9%	Worse	4
Anne Arundel	2,438	6.3%	2,117	6.5%	Worse	10
Baltimore City	10,060	12.3%	8,344	13.7%	Worse	24
Baltimore County	3,747	6.6%	3,616	7.7%	Worse	18
Calvert	257	5.7%	257	5.8%	Worse	3
Caroline	175	7.7%	163	8.4%	Worse	20
Carroll	594	5.4%	494	5.3%	Better	1
Cecil	411	6.4%	368	6.5%	Worse	10
Charles	651	6.8%	589	7.1%	Worse	16
Dorchester	231	9.1%	165	8.9%	Better	21
Frederick	739	5.5%	811	6.3%	Worse	7
Garrett	127	5.6%	124	6.3%	Worse	7
Harford	929	6.0%	983	6.7%	Worse	14
Howard	914	5.6%	900	5.4%	Better	2
Kent	91	6.9%	76	6.9%	same	15
Montgomery	4,201	6.0%	3,974	6.5%	Worse	10
Prince George's	6,779	9.1%	6,349	9.7%	Worse	23
Queen Anne's	155	5.7%	136	6.2%	Worse	6
St. Mary's	540	7.0%	421	6.5%	Better	10
Somerset	134	8.6%	128	9.6%	Worse	22
Talbot	180	8.1%	138	7.4%	Better	17
Washington	594	6.4%	480	6.0%	Better	5
Wicomico	481	7.5%	472	8.3%	Worse	19
Worcester	233	7.7%	158	6.4%	Better	9
MARYLAND	**34,965**	**7.9%**	**31,514**	**8.3%**	**Worse**	

Source: Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Division of Health Statistics

Infant Mortality Rate

Number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births
Maryland

County	THEN 1985-1990		NOW 1991-1995		TREND	RANK
	Total deaths	Mortality Rate	Total deaths	Mortality Rate		
Allegany	48	9.1	42	9.9	worse	19
Anne Arundel	353	9.1	223	6.9	better	8
Baltimore City	1,351	16.5	833	13.7	better	24
Baltimore County	482	8.5	354	7.5	better	11
Calvert	28	6.2	25	5.7	better	3
Caroline	27	11.9	24	12.3	worse	22
Carroll	89	8.1	63	6.8	better	6
Cecil	51	7.9	44	7.8	better	13
Charles	93	9.7	62	7.5	better	11
Dorchester	28	11.1	15	8.1	better	15
Frederick	103	7.7	80	6.2	better	4
Garrett	23	10.1	14	7.1	better	9
Harford	146	9.4	93	6.3	better	5
Howard	100	6.1	62	3.7	better	2
Kent	10	7.6	4	3.6	better	1
Montgomery	611	8.7	455	7.4	better	10
Prince George's	980	13.2	868	13.3	worse	23
Queen Anne's	20	7.4	17	7.8	worse	13
St. Mary's	100	13.1	64	9.9	better	19
Somerset	18	11.5	9	6.8	better	6
Talbot	29	13.0	18	9.7	better	18
Washington	87	9.3	65	8.1	better	15
Wicomico	75	11.7	59	10.4	better	21
Worcester	35	11.6	23	9.3	better	17
MARYLAND	**4,887**	**11.0**	**3,516**	**9.3**	**better**	

Source: Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Division of Health Statistics

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Appendix

Lead Screening

Number of children under age 6 screened, percent screened
Maryland

County	THEN 1992 No. of Children Screened	THEN 1992 Percent Screened	NOW 1995* No. of Children Screened	NOW 1995* Percent Screened	TREND	RANK
Allegany	451	8.5%	945	17.9%	Better	2
Anne Arundel	3,210	8.0%	2,658	7.0%	Worse	14
Baltimore City	25,503	37.5%	38,794	57.1%	Better	1
Baltimore County	7,600	13.5%	1,200	2.1%	Worse	24
Calvert	86	1.8%	205	4.2%	Better	21
Caroline	279	11.0%	134	5.3%	Worse	17
Carroll	549	4.7%	674	5.8%	Better	16
Cecil	320	4.8%	215	3.2%	Worse	23
Charles	144	1.4%	733	7.0%	Better	14
Dorchester	269	11.1%	239	9.8%	Worse	9
Frederick	508	3.6%	763	5.3%	Better	17
Garrett	45	1.9%	252	10.5%	Better	7
Harford	985	5.6%	1,853	10.5%	Better	7
Howard	450	2.5%	824	4.5%	Better	20
Kent	374	28.1%	110	8.3%	Worse	11
Montgomery	1,601	2.4%	5,272	7.8%	Better	13
Prince George's	4,091	6.2%	6,292	9.6%	Better	10
Queen Anne's	279	9.5%	110	3.7%	Worse	22
Somerset	398	26.3%	240	15.8%	Worse	3
St. Mary's	846	10.4%	890	11.0%	Better	6
Talbot	200	8.6%	118	5.1%	Worse	19
Washington	849	8.7%	763	7.9%	Worse	12
Wicomico	553	8.8%	726	11.5%	Better	5
Worcester	413	15.1%	384	14.0%	Worse	4
MARYLAND	**50,007**	**11.7%**	**70,136**	**16.4%**	**Better**	

Note: Criteria used - under 72 months of age; venuous only
Source: Maryland Department of the Environment
* Number of children according to U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990

Incidence of Lead Poisoning

Number of children screened, percent screened, number and percent lead poisoned and number and percent with lead exposure
Maryland

County	# of Children under age 6	# of Children Screened	Percent Screened	# of Children With Lead Poisoning [>= mg20/dL]	Percent with Lead Poisoning [>= mg20/dL]	# of Children with Lead Exposure [10-19mg/dL]	Percent with Lead Exposure [10-19mg/dL]
Allegany	5,275	945	17.9%	22	2.3%	94	9.9%
Anne Arundel	38,044	2,658	7.0%	9	0.3%	92	3.5%
Baltimore City	67,936	38,794	57.1%	1,633	4.2%	8,625	22.2%
Baltimore County	56,350	1,200	2.1%	6	0.5%	49	4.1%
Calvert	4,899	205	4.2%	1	0.5%	11	5.4%
Caroline	2,533	134	5.3%	5	3.7%	20	14.9%
Carroll	11,589	674	5.8%	7	1.0%	51	7.6%
Cecil	6,705	215	3.2%	8	3.7%	9	4.2%
Charles	10,396	733	7.0%	6	0.8%	37	5.0%
Dorchester	2,434	239	9.8%	8	3.3%	53	22.2%
Frederick	14,294	763	5.3%	6	0.8%	37	4.8%
Garrett	2,393	252	10.5%	1	0.4%	9	3.6%
Harford	17,684	1,853	10.5%	8	0.4%	101	5.5%
Howard	18,162	824	4.5%	5	0.6%	16	1.9%
Kent	1,329	110	8.3%	4	3.6%	8	7.3%
Montgomery	67,903	5,272	7.8%	26	0.5%	95	1.8%
Prince George's	65,686	6,292	9.6%	34	0.5%	199	3.2%
Queen Anne's	2,951	110	3.7%	0	0.0%	5	4.5%
St. Mary's	8,119	890	11.0%	1	0.1%	69	7.8%
Somerset	1,516	240	15.8%	10	4.2%	20	8.3%
Talbot	2,323	118	5.1%	1	0.8%	8	6.8%
Washington	9,722	763	7.9%	13	1.7%	41	5.4%
Wicomico	6,291	726	11.5%	15	2.1%	59	8.1%
Worcester	2,738	384	14.0%	3	0.8%	45	11.7%
unknown		5,742		2		465	
MARYLAND	**427,274**	**70,136**	**16.4%**	**1,834**	**2.6%**	**10,218**	**14.6%**

Source: Maryland Department of the Environment
* Unknown age/county not included (5,742) except in MD total

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Appendix

Child Deaths

Number of child *(ages 1-14)* deaths from all causes per 100,000 children ages 1-14

Maryland

County	THEN 1988-1991		NOW 1992-1995		TREND	RANK
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate		
Allegany	19	37.2	14	26.1	better	12
Anne Arundel	86	26.1	102	28.0	worse	15
Baltimore City	271	46.4	304	50.3	worse	23
Baltimore County	111	23.9	117	21.7	better	6
Calvert	7	15.4	11	19.2	worse	3
Caroline	12	55.3	15	61.0	worse	24
Carroll	27	26.7	27	23.3	better	9
Cecil	18	29.7	22	31.9	worse	18
Charles	26	28.0	24	23.4	better	10
Dorchester	13	59.5	11	46.4	better	22
Frederick	35	28.3	31	21.1	better	4
Garrett	11	47.0	9	36.2	better	20
Harford	30	20.0	49	27.9	worse	14
Howard	27	18.1	39	21.1	worse	4
Kent	6	50.7	4	31.2	better	17
Montgomery	131	23.4	102	15.7	better	1
Prince George's	163	28.9	156	24.3	better	11
Queen Anne's	13	50.7	5	17.5	better	2
St. Mary's	33	48.6	23	31.0	better	16
Somerset	4	27.2	5	31.9	worse	18
Talbot	9	45.4	5	22.6	better	7
Washington	28	32.8	25	26.4	better	13
Wicomico	17	29.9	15	23.0	better	8
Worcester	11	45.3	12	43.1	better	21
MARYLAND	**1,108**	**30.3**	**1,127**	**27.4**	**better**	

Source: Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Teen Violent Deaths

Number of teen deaths ages 15-19 from accidents, homicide, and suicide, violent death rates per 100,000 teens ages 15-19

Maryland

County	THEN 1988-1991		NOW 1992-1995		TREND	RANK
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate		
Allegany	14	58.3	7	32.8	better	2
Anne Arundel	68	54.5	46	40.3	better	4
Baltimore City	199	92.9	235	132.7	worse	24
Baltimore County	88	51.3	65	40.9	better	6
Calvert	13	85.3	9	56.9	better	10
Caroline	9	120	2	27.6	better	1
Carroll	28	77.5	20	58.4	better	12
Cecil	15	65.6	14	65.2	better	17
Charles	34	102.8	20	65	better	16
Dorchester	9	117.4	4	58.6	better	13
Frederick	24	54	18	41.3	better	7
Garrett	2	22.7	6	73	worse	19
Harford	28	51.9	33	63.4	worse	15
Howard	19	39.8	19	40.8	worse	5
Kent	8	147.5	4	79.2	better	20
Montgomery	67	36.4	60	34.5	better	3
Prince George's	194	87.9	193	96.3	worse	21
Queen Anne's	8	94	8	99.9	worse	22
St. Mary's	12	49.9	11	50.6	worse	9
Somerset	6	73.3	5	72.3	better	18
Talbot	6	89.3	3	47.9	better	8
Washington	20	60.9	17	56.9	better	10
Wicomico	22	95.5	13	58.6	better	13
Worcester	6	73.5	10	129.2	worse	23
MARYLAND	**899**	**67.4**	**822**	**67.3**	**better**	

Source: Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

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Appendix

Indicated Child Abuse and Neglect

CPS indicated abuse and neglect investigations
Rate per 1,000 children
Maryland

County	THEN 1990		NOW 1996		TREND	RANK
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate		
Allegany	196	12.0	193	11.9	lower	22
Anne Arundel	532	5.0	587	5.2	higher	10
Baltimore City	3,732	20.7	3,425	19.2	lower	24
Baltimore County	829	5.5	833	5.0	lower	9
Calvert	111	7.5	90	4.8	lower	7
Caroline	40	5.6	70	9.2	higher	19
Carroll	194	5.9	113	3.1	lower	2
Cecil	158	8.1	124	5.8	lower	11
Charles	221	7.4	201	6.3	lower	12
Dorchester	54	7.8	64	9.0	higher	18
Frederick	149	3.7	221	4.8	higher	7
Garrett	60	7.9	35	4.6	lower	4
Harford	413	8.4	262	4.7	lower	6
Howard	212	4.3	272	4.6	higher	4
Kent	15	3.9	27	6.8	higher	15
Montgomery	514	2.9	465	2.3	lower	1
Prince George's	1,288	7.2	1,296	6.5	lower	14
Queen Anne's	42	5.0	28	3.2	lower	3
St. Mary's	201	9.3	166	7.2	lower	16
Somerset	53	11.2	68	14.4	higher	23
Talbot	53	8.2	44	6.3	lower	12
Washington	190	6.9	259	8.8	higher	17
Wicomico	236	12.9	230	11.5	lower	21
Worcester	62	8.0	96	10.9	higher	20
MARYLAND	**9,555**	**8.2**	**9,169**	**7.2**	**lower**	

Source: Maryland Department of Human Resources

Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest

Number of violent crime arrests and rate of violent crime arrests per 10,000 youth ages 10-17
Maryland

County	THEN 1990		NOW 1995		TREND	RANK
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate		
Allegany	18	24.5	35	46.5	worse	15
Anne Arundel	46	10.7	125	26.1	worse	6
Baltimore City	1,082	155.5	1,219	173.5	worse	24
Baltimore County	466	77.3	707	100.5	worse	20
Calvert	12	19.3	44	52.3	worse	18
Caroline	2	6.8	11	32.7	worse	7
Carroll	18	13.4	18	11.1	better	1
Cecil	38	45.0	40	42.6	better	13
Charles	34	27.3	53	37.2	worse	10
Dorchester	31	108.0	43	137.4	worse	23
Frederick	74	45.7	94	47.1	worse	16
Garrett	8	23.1	5	14.0	better	4
Harford	46	23.5	27	11.1	better	1
Howard	24	12.4	108	44.0	worse	14
Kent	1	6.2	9	51.7	worse	17
Montgomery	159	22.6	169	20.6	better	5
Prince George's	478	66.1	670	84.8	worse	19
Queen Anne's	5	15.1	5	12.6	better	3
St. Mary's	45	52.8	39	40.1	better	12
Somerset	6	28.2	7	33.3	worse	8
Talbot	15	58.4	41	135.3	worse	22
Washington	21	18.2	43	33.5	worse	9
Wicomico	64	83.7	99	114.8	worse	21
Worcester	15	47.5	15	39.8	better	11
MARYLAND	**2,708**	**57.8**	**3,626**	**61.4**	**worse**	

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Program, Maryland State Police

Appendix

School Violence

Violence related suspension rate per 1,000 students
Maryland

County	THEN 1992-1993 Number	THEN 1992-1993 Rate	NOW 1995-1996 Number	NOW 1995-1996 Rate	TREND	RANK
Allegany	282	25.6	257	23.2	better	3
Anne Arundel	2,971	44.5	3,304	46.8	worse	12
Baltimore City	5,953	56.3	2,463	23.5	better	4
Baltimore County	1,173	12.9	3,595	36.5	worse	10
Calvert	208	18.2	436	32.9	worse	9
Caroline	315	63.7	355	66.6	worse	19
Carroll	560	24.4	728	28.9	worse	7
Cecil	778	58.5	923	64.6	worse	17
Charles	994	51.5	1,344	65.2	worse	18
Dorchester	452	93.8	563	112.8	worse	23
Frederick	1,150	39.8	1,493	46.4	worse	11
Garrett	174	34.7	144	28.4	better	5
Harford	829	25.1	1,122	31.0	worse	8
Howard	642	19.5	1,074	28.8	worse	6
Kent	119	47.4	208	77.0	worse	20
Montgomery	2,141	19.8	2,669	22.6	worse	2
Prince George's	5,193	46.8	5,702	47.6	worse	13
Queen Anne's	284	50.6	351	57.7	worse	15
St. Mary's	642	51.0	851	63.3	worse	16
Somerset	597	181.3	376	120.2	better	24
Talbot	361	86.9	369	85.6	better	21
Washington	326	17.8	383	19.7	worse	1
Wicomico	1,029	78.4	1,162	85.6	worse	21
Worcester	415	70.0	319	49.2	better	14
MARYLAND	**27,588**	**37.5**	**30,191**	**38.3**	**worse**	

Source: Maryland State Department of Education

Third Grade Reading

Percent of students scoring satisfactory on the Maryland School Performance Assessment Program
Maryland

County	THEN 1992	NOW 1996	TREND	RANK
Allegany	20.4%	31.8%	better	18
Anne Arundel	33.7%	44.3%	better	8
Baltimore City	11.7%	11.2%	worse	24
Baltimore County	30.7%	36.5%	better	15
Calvert	33.4%	40.0%	better	12
Caroline	29.2%	37.6%	better	13
Carroll	32.0%	46.7%	better	5
Cecil	27.4%	37.3%	better	14
Charles	26.0%	31.2%	better	20
Dorchester	15.2%	40.4%	better	10
Frederick	44.4%	48.7%	better	2
Garrett	35.4%	31.8%	worse	18
Harford	37.2%	46.7%	better	5
Howard	38.8%	53.3%	better	1
Kent	44.2%	48.4%	better	3
Montgomery	41.6%	44.5%	better	7
Prince George's	19.4%	25.8%	better	22
Queen Anne's	40.9%	40.3%	worse	11
Saint Mary's	24.7%	41.3%	better	9
Somerset	25.2%	23.9%	worse	23
Talbot	24.7%	47.0%	better	4
Washington	26.1%	36.4%	better	16
Wicomico	23.8%	31.2%	better	20
Worcester	22.1%	33.0%	better	17
MARYLAND	**28.6%**	**35.3%**	**better**	

Source: Maryland State Department of Education
Maryland School Performance Report

Appendix

On-Time Graduation

Graduates in June as a percent of ninth graders enrolled in September four years prior

Maryland

County	THEN 1989-1990 Percent	NOW 1995-1996 Percent	TREND	RANK
Allegany	91.0%	90.5%	worse	5
Anne Arundel	71.6%	68.6%	worse	21
Baltimore City	38.4%	41.0%	better	24
Baltimore County	78.0%	84.0%	better	8
Calvert	95.0%	90.0%	worse	6
Caroline	66.5%	67.6%	better	22
Carroll	85.8%	86.5%	better	7
Cecil	77.6%	74.8%	worse	17
Charles	83.7%	84.0%	better	8
Dorchester	78.5%	72.6%	worse	19
Frederick	87.3%	95.5%	better	1
Garrett	92.4%	90.9%	worse	3
Harford	76.7%	75.3%	worse	15
Howard	94.1%	93.9%	worse	2
Kent	76.1%	80.6%	better	12
Montgomery	90.4%	90.6%	better	4
Prince George's	71.8%	75.2%	better	16
Queen Anne's	77.4%	79.0%	better	13
St. Mary's	76.4%	77.6%	better	14
Somerset	73.3%	63.0%	worse	23
Talbot	75.8%	71.5%	worse	20
Washington	79.3%	82.2%	better	10
Wicomico	81.4%	73.3%	worse	18
Worcester	82.2%	81.3%	worse	11
MARYLAND	**72.8%**	**74.7%**	**better**	

Source: Maryland Department of Education

High School Completion

CPS indicated abuse and neglect investigations

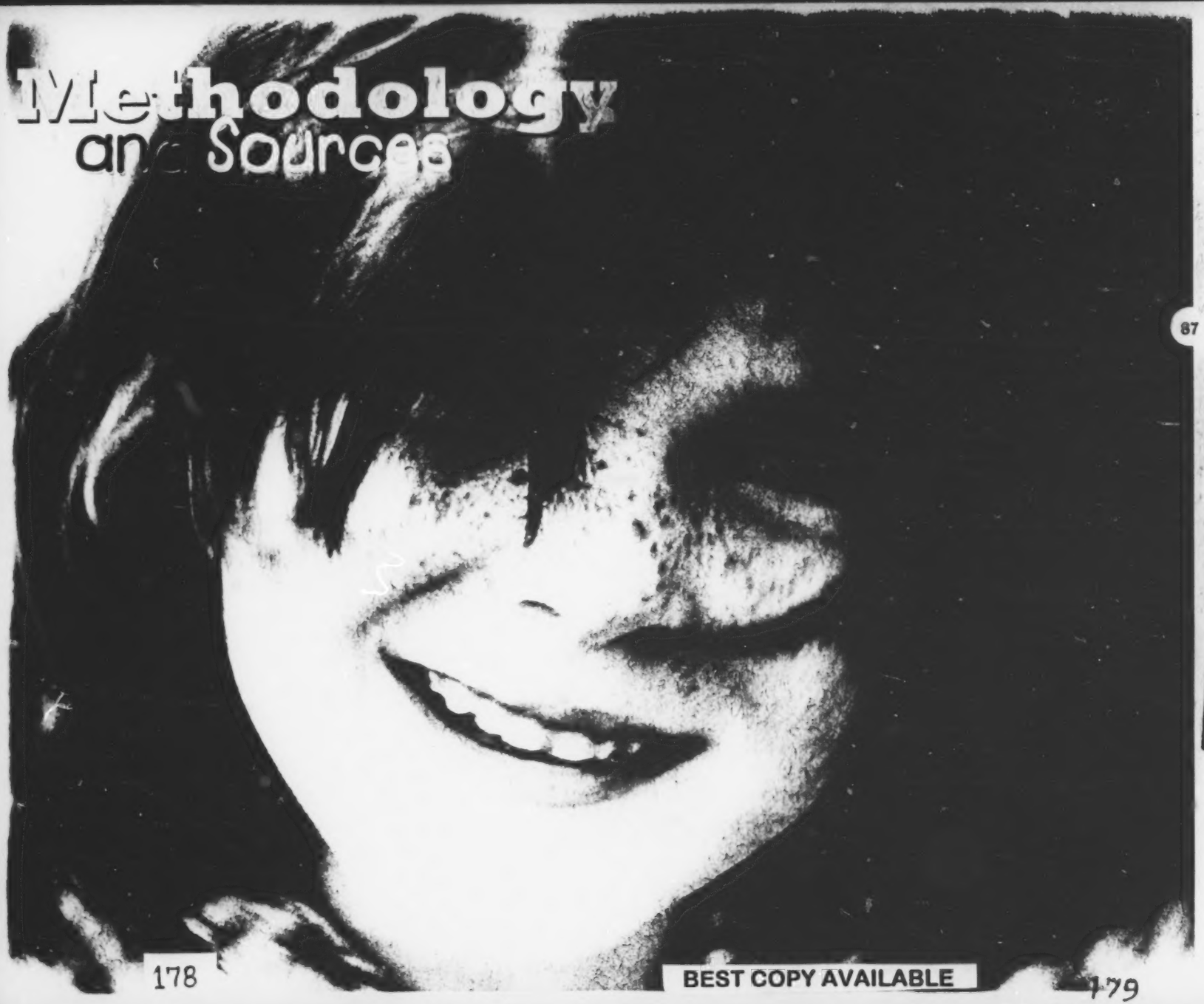
Rate per 1,000 children

Maryland

County	THEN 1991 Percent	NOW 1996 Percent	TREND	RANK
Allegany	29.7%	39.0%	better	16
Anne Arundel	42.0%	51.3%	better	7
Baltimore City	31.5%	33.7%	better	22
Baltimore County	42.8%	46.4%	better	10
Calvert	47.2%	54.2%	better	6
Caroline	26.3%	38.2%	better	19
Carroll	28.6%	51.2%	better	8
Cecil	33.0%	37.7%	better	20
Charles	37.2%	37.0%	worse	21
Dorchester	28.2%	45.4%	better	11
Frederick	49.6%	57.3%	better	5
Garrett	28.5%	25.1%	worse	23
Harford	24.4%	61.4%	better	3
Howard	69.4%	75.2%	better	1
Kent	38.9%	38.3%	worse	18
Montgomery	60.5%	64.7%	better	2
Prince George's	45.6%	49.5%	better	9
Queen Anne's	40.7%	39.9%	worse	14
St. Mary's	33.7%	38.4%	better	17
Somerset	23.3%	23.4%	better	24
Talbot	30.6%	59.7%	better	4
Washington	33.4%	39.7%	better	15
Wicomico	47.7%	44.9%	worse	13
Worcester	38.9%	45.1%	better	12
MARYLAND	**43.5%**	**50.8%**	**better**	

Source: Maryland Department of Education

Methodology and Sources



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Methodology and Sources

The information in the Maryland KIDS COUNT Factbook comes from both state and national sources. Data were collected from state departments and agencies and United States government bureaus. This section identifies both the primary and secondary data sources and the methodology used to compute findings.

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Child Poverty

Child poverty is the number and percent of related children under 18 living in families with incomes below the U.S. Poverty Threshold as defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. "Related children" include family head's children by birth, marriage, or adoption under age 18, as well as other persons under 18 who are related to the family head. The data were obtained from the Maryland Office of Planning Analysis, of the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing 1990, STF-3A, tables 123, 124,125, and 126 and Bureau of the Census, 1980 Census of Population, STF-3A. State level data were derived from unpublished March 1991-1995 Current Population Survey data supplied by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

References:

The Link Between Nutrition and Cognitive Development in Children, (1994). Center on Hunger, Poverty and Nutrition Policy, Tufts University.

The State of America's Children. Children's Defense Fund: Washington, D.C.

Racial Differences in Child Poverty in the U.S., A Linear Trend Analysis to the Year 2010, (1993). Center on Hunger, Poverty and Nutrition Policy, Tufts University.

Child Support

Child support is the number and percent of court-ordered child support cases in which any payment is received. These data are generated by computing a 12 month fiscal year average and were supplied by the Maryland Department of Human Resources.

References:

1996 Fact Pack. Maryland Department of Human Resources.

Nazario, Thomas A., (1988). In Defense of Children: Understanding the Rights, Needs, and Interests of the Child. A Resource Book for Parents and Professionals, Charles Scribner's Sons: New York.

Births to Teens

Births to teens is the percentage of total births born to women under the age of 20. The percent is computed by dividing the number of babies born to women under age 20, by the total number of babies born. That number is then multiplied by 100. Birth data were obtained from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Division of Vital Statistics. Teen birth rates (rate per 1,000) were calculated and provided by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Division of Vital Statistics.

References:

Rosenheim, M. K., & Testa, M. F, (1992). Early Parenthood & Coming of Age in the 1990's. Rutgers University Press: New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Luker, K., (1996). Dubious Conceptions: The Politics of Teenage Pregnancy. Harvard University Press: Cambridge, Massachusetts.

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Methodology and Sources

GOOD HEALTH

Low Birthweight

Low birthweight is the percentage of all births of infants weighing less than 2500 grams (5.5 lbs.) at birth. The data were provided by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Division of Health Statistics.

References:

Gells, R.J., (1992). Poverty and Violence Toward Children. American Behavioral Scientist, 35(3):258-274.

Understanding Child Abuse and Neglect, (1993). National Research Council.

Kramer, J.C. Racial and Ethnic Differences in Birthweight: The Role of Income and Financial Assistance. Demography, May 1995, 32 (2).

Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate is the number of deaths of infants under one year of age, per 1,000 live births. The data were provided by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Division of Health Statistics.

References:

Miller A., Fine A., & Adams-Taylor S., (1989). Monitoring Children's Health: Key Indicators, American Public Health Association: Washington, DC.

The Health of America's Children, (1991). Children's Defense Fund: Washington, DC.

Lead Poisoning

Lead poisoning is the percentage of children under age six screened for lead poisoning. Data were obtained from the Maryland Department of the Environment, Childhood Lead Registry program.

References:

Preventing Lead Poisoning in Young Children, (1991). Centers for Disease Control, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Case Studies in Environmental Medicine: Lead Toxicity, (1992). Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

SAFETY

Child Deaths

Child death rate is the number of deaths from all causes of children 1-14 years, per 100,000 children 1-14. Data were obtained from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Division of Health Statistics. The total number of children ages 1-14 for the years 1988-95 were based on population estimates from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Division of Health Statistics.

References:

Miller, A., Fine, A. & Adams-Taylor, S., (1989). Monitoring Children's Health: Key Indicators. American Public Health Association: Washington DC.

Nazario, T., (1988). In Defense of Children: Understanding the Rights, Needs, and Interests of the Child. A Resource Book for Parents and Professionals, Charles Scribner's Sons: New York.

Teen Violent Deaths

The teen violent death rate is the number of deaths from homicides, accidents, and suicides of youths ages 15-19, per 100,000 youths ages 15-19. The data were supplied by Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The total number of teens ages 15-19 for the years 1988-95 were based on Maryland population estimates from Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Division of Health Statistics.

Methodology and Sources

References:

Juvenile Offenders and Victims: A National Report, 1995. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention: Washington, DC.

Losing Generations: Adolescents in High Risk Settings, (1993). Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, National Research Council: Washington, DC.

Child Abuse and Neglect

The child abuse and neglect rate is the number of indicated investigations per 1,000 children ages 0-17. An investigation can involve one or more children. This fiscal year data were provided by the Maryland Department of Human Resources. Data on total population under 18 were based on population estimates from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Division of Vital Statistics.

References:

Understanding Child Abuse and Neglect, (1993). National Research Council: Washington D.C.

Third National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect, (1996). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect: Washington, DC.

Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest

Violent crime is defined as homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Arrest rates could include repeat arrests of the same individual for different offenses. Juvenile violent crime arrest rate is the number of violent arrests of youth ages 10-17 per 10,000 youths of those same ages. The arrest rate reflects the number of arrests, not the number of adolescents involved in an arrest.

In 1990 and 1995, the number of juvenile violent crime arrests in the counties do not sum the state total due to arrests made by statewide agencies. Juvenile violent crime arrest data were obtained from the Maryland Sate Police, Uniform Crime Reporting Program. The number of youth, ages 10-17, was obtained from population estimates from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Division of Vital Statistics.

References:

Ford, Heather A, (1996). Maryland CAN Prevent Youth Violence. Advocates for Children and Youth: Baltimore.

Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1996 Update on Violence, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, US Department of Justice: Washington, DC.

Walsch, Lorraine B., (1993). Helping Children Cope with Violence. Young Children, May 1993.

School Violence

School violence is the number of physical attacks against teacher/staff, physical attacks against student(s), verbal/physical threats against teacher/staff, and verbal/physical threats against student(s) resulting in a suspension and/or expulsion from school. Data were obtained from the Maryland State Department of Education.

References:

Special Report on Children and Violence, (1995). Caterina Gourvis and Maryland KIDS COUNT Partnership: Baltimore.

Broswell, Carla A. Facts on Kids and Violence in Maryland. Advocates for Children and Youth: Baltimore.

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Methodology and Sources

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

Third Grade Reading

Third grade reading is the number of students who score satisfactorily on the Maryland State School Performance Assessment Program test. Data were obtained from the Maryland State Department of Education.

References:

Living in Poverty: Must Students Pay the Price? Maryland KIDS COUNT Partnership: Baltimore.

MSPAP- Maryland School Performance Assessment Program: A Guide for Parents. Maryland State Department of Education, School and Community Outreach.

Improving Learning For All Children: Education Reform in Maryland 1977-1996. Maryland State Department of Education.

On-Time Graduation

On-time graduation is the percentage of ninth grade public school students who complete high school four years later. The rate was calculated by the number of high school graduates divided by the number of ninth grade students enrolled four years prior. The data were obtained from the Maryland State Department of Education.

References:

Losing Generations: Adolescents in High Risk Settings, (1993). Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, National Research Council: Washington, DC.

Sherman, A. (1994). Wasting America's Future. Children's Defense Fund, Washington, DC.

High School Program Completion

High school program completion is the percent of high school graduates who have completed the minimum course requirements that would qualify them for admission to the University of Maryland System. The Maryland State Department of Education provided these data.

References:

1996 Fact Pack. Maryland Department of Human Resources.

1996 Maryland School Performance Report. Maryland State Department of Education.

Losing Generations: Adolescents in High-Risk Settings, (1993). Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, National Research Council: Washington, DC.

SERVICES/ DEMOGRAPHICS

Family Investment Program/Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (FIP/TANF)

FIP/TANF reflects the fiscal year monthly average number of children under age 18 who live in families receiving AFDC benefits. FIP/TANF is a public assistance program that provides cash benefits to poor families with dependent children. It is block grant funded by both the federal government and the states. States, however, set their own AFDC benefit levels. The data were supplied by Maryland Department of Human Resources.

Medicaid

Medicaid notes the fiscal year monthly average number of children under 18 who are enrolled in Medicaid. Medicaid provides medical assistance to low-income elderly, the blind and disabled. It also serves families on AFDC and other low-income women and children. Medicaid is the principal source of health care coverage for poor women and children. Today, every state must provide Medicaid to all pregnant women with children under age six with family incomes less than 133% of the poverty level. Data were

provided by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Special Supplemental Nutrition Program

Children in the WIC program reflects the monthly average number of children and infants participating in WIC during the fiscal year. They were obtained from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Free and Reduced Price Meals

Students receiving free/reduced price meals is the number of students whose application for free/reduced price meals met income eligibility guidelines of the United States Department of Agriculture. The data were supplied by the Maryland State Department of Education.

Juvenile Justice Intake

Juvenile Justice is the number and percentage of intake cases in the Department of Juvenile Justice. The Maryland Department of Juvenile Justice provided the data.

Child Care

Estimated child care costs, food, taxes and housing are based on a two-parent family with 2 children ages 1-2 and 3-5 years. Center based care refers to year round care provided in non-residential facilities for 8-12 hours per day and is licensed by the Child Care Administration of the Maryland Department of Human Resources. Family Day Care pertains to child care provided in the caregiver's home. Caregivers are registered with the Child Care Administration of the Maryland Department of Human Resources and offer full or part time care. Child care data were provided by the Maryland Committee for Children, Inc.

Estimated Child Population

The estimated child population is the number of children in Maryland ages 18 and under. Child population data were derived from the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Children's Living Arrangements

Children's living arrangements include the number of children under 18 living with two parents, a single parent, and relatives/non-relatives. Data for children's living arrangements were obtained from the Maryland Office of Planning Analysis of the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing 1990, STF-1A.

Median Family Income

Data were obtained from the Maryland Office of Planning analysis of the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census Population and Housing 1990, STF-3A, table 109.

Percent of Children with Working Parents

This demographic variable has two components:

- The percentage of children under age 18 with all parents working (either both parents or the sole parent living with the children)
- The percentage of women in the labor force with children under 18

All data on working parents were available from the Maryland Office of Planning analysis of the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing 1990, STF-3A, tables 73 and 75.

Teen Idleness

Idle teen is the number and percentage of youth ages 16-19 not in school, not working and not looking for work. Data were obtained from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990.

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